



---

# MEETING NOTES

---

*Meeting Notes are not official until voted on by the Board of Education at its following Regular Meeting.*

- A1 President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- A2 Members present: Mark Abate, Paul Lambert, Nadia Long, Brian Perry, and Lisa Whiting
- A3 Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Abate welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked teachers for their work building curriculum for online learning, HEA and OAPSE for their partnership during this challenging time, and also parents for their continued engagement as we work through all of the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

## B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

### B1 CATS – Early Warning System

In collaboration with our partners at Ohio State University (OSU), Franklin County Public Health (FCPH), Columbus Public Health (CPH), and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), we have launched the first version of our CATS partnership. CATS is an acronym for “COVID-19 Analytics and Targeted Surveillance.” This system allows us to answer some of our questions about state and county data versus data within our school district. We have identified all of the zip codes and every home within our school district. Viewing the data with CATS will allow us to know what is happening in all areas of our district.

Dr. Marschhausen believes this system will be critically important as we prepare for college students returning to the OSU campus. We will be able to see if the impact of students being back on campus affects changes at the county level and if those changes are mirrored at the school district level. I know that this is a concern that many in our community have. I’m glad that this system will address this issue. Along with watching these numbers, we will be monitoring three specific data points within our school district. We will be monitoring student absenteeism (*by class, grade level, and building*), teacher absenteeism, and nurse visits for COVID-19 related symptoms. This data (*no names, no specific identifiable information*) will be shared with OSU to analyze. They will be able to tell us how our absenteeism rate correlates to positive COVID-19 tests within our district. We have been tracking nursing visits for several years. Now we will add tracking of COVID-19 related symptoms. We are working with FCPH to help us determine which of these symptoms mean more.

In working with the epidemiologists and analytic teams from all of the different health organizations, we will be able to set triggers. These triggers, based on science and data, will be able to tell us that we have an anomaly in the data in either a class, grade level, or building. This notice will allow us to make preemptive decisions before the positive tests get to Hilliard. There is a video developed by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital that talked about the importance of inclusion when possible and exclusion when necessary. As we work with our partners at FCPH, we are asking if there is a safe way for us to include students and identify hot spots for a potential outbreak. If we see four or five students who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees in a particular grade level in one of our buildings, we may decide to quarantine that grade level section instead of the entire building or even the whole district.

Dr. Marschhausen shared three graph charts showing the number of new COVID-19 cases in the county, the district, and in one elementary attendance area. The county graph shows where the norm was, where the number of cases began increasing, and when the numbers started decreasing. The district graph mirrors the county graph. The third chart shows the number of new cases within the Ridgewood Elementary attendance area. Building level data will help us identify possible hot spots within a particular community. If we see that a specific area shows an increase in the number of new cases, we may quarantine (for two weeks) that particular building and potentially keep our students from contracting or spreading COVID-19.

This data will allow us to make better decisions in the future. Moving forward, our team will have district-level data and not have to rely solely on the county level data. We believe this data will help us determine when to bring students back into the schools and keep our students and staff safer as we move through this pandemic.

Mr. Lambert asked if the building level graph includes everyone (not just students and parents) in that attendance area. Dr. Marschhausen responded that yes, the data comprises everyone who resides within that particular school attendance area.

Mr. Abate asked if we have identified certain thresholds of case data that will be triggers for us. Dr. Marschhausen responded that we would start by using case data from other viral epidemics because this is the first time anyone has tried to go back to school with COVID-19. The European countries had their numbers down so much lower than where we are. The first number we discussed was 2% of our normal absenteeism rate. For example, two students in the same grade level within an elementary building could cause us to quarantine (for 14 days) that particular grade level.

Our team is now working on a webpage that will show the condition of every building and every grade level. It's naïve to think that we are not going to run into challenges with bringing students back to school. This data will help us determine how to keep as much of the district open as safely as possible. We need to be flexible as we work our way through this pandemic.

Ms. Whiting thanked the team for all of their work on this project. Dr. Marschhausen answered that our technology department had worked closely with the team at OSU to get our data to them.

Mr. Perry commented that he likes the specificity this data will allow us. He then asked for clarification that this information is in addition to the county-wide measures (eLearning 2.0 in red & purple) and would apply to Hybrid and all-in conditions (orange & yellow). Dr. Marschhausen responded that we would also be able to use this data to possibly keep our district in "orange" if the county goes to "red" because the number of cases within our community is not increasing.

## **C ROUTINES**

- C1 The agenda is correct with late-breaking items.
- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda.
- C3 The Board of Education approved the June and July 2020 Treasurer's Reports.

Mr. Lambert commented that due to our spending discipline the past several years, we finished the year (June report) 3% under the original budgeted amount in both the operating fund and overall fund levels. He commends both Dr. Marschhausen and Mr. Wilson for their continued discipline.

Mr. Wilson added that on the July report, the general fund revenue is down significantly due to the Franklin County Auditor delaying the payment date of the second half of property taxes.

C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:

- a. July 9, 2020 – regular meeting
- b. July 27, 2020 – special meeting
- c. July 9, 2020 – regular meeting notes
- d. July 27, 2020 – special meeting notes

D **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District encourages and appreciates citizen interest in meetings of the board. This place on the agenda is especially set aside to hear comments from visitors. Persons wishing to address the board should make written requests in advance of the meeting or complete the Visitor Form found where the agenda materials are located. When called, each speaker is asked to address the board at the microphone so that remarks may be clearly heard and recorded. The speaker should give his or her name and address and limit comments to three minutes.*

*Board members may ask questions of the speaker for information or clarification and may or may not make comments in response to a speaker's remarks. It should be noted that this section of the agenda is to hear the views of citizens about their schools. No board member has the power or authority to act for the board; therefore, no response from an individual board member should be interpreted as an official action of the board. Portions of the board meeting are being audiotaped.*

**Note: Letters are printed in this document as the author wrote it.**

**Carmel Elmer - 4424 Huntwicke Dr.**

During earlier zoom calls I was extremely impressed with the thought that went into the start-up plan for HCSD and I had extreme confidence in your ability to keep our kids and teachers safe under the original plan. I have friends and family who teach in other districts in Franklin county and we were clearly far more prepared for safe in person instruction than many other districts. Given the investment in masks, face shields, plexi-glass barriers, and all of the other preparations that are in place in Hilliard, why are you following the lead of your counterparts who are not prepared and do not have the funding that we do ensure safe in person instruction? We have never followed the lead of Columbus City Schools. It seems we are doing that now and I would like to know why?

Thank you,  
Carmel Elmer

.....

**Robert B. Murdoch - 3056 Hemlock Edge Drive Hilliard, OH 43026**

After reviewing the meeting notes from the last Board of Education meeting, it appears that both the Franklin County Department of Health officials and the School Board were initially fine with the hybrid plan for a Level 3 alert. What appears to have changed the final result was the suggestion from the Superintendent that school counsel suggested the district could be liable for recklessness or negligence if they ignored the Franklin County Department of Health. As was clarified in a later letter from the Franklin County Department of Health, its original letter was only a recommendation, not a mandate. It is not recklessness or negligence to consider a recommendation from a county-wide agency and adopt an approach more suited to a much smaller portion of that county. I suggest that the school's legal counsel has overestimated the risk of a lawsuit, especially in light of legislation pending before the Ohio legislature to provide liability from Covid-19 lawsuits for a variety of situations, including education. Other school districts in Franklin County, most notably the New Albany School District, have stated that they are prepared to start the school year with a hybrid approach rather than a remote approach. Are these school districts taking a greater risk than the Hilliard City School District? Or has the Hilliard City School District Board of Education put fear of a lawsuit above the district's primary goal of educating children? The longer the Hilliard City School District "educates" its children online, the greater the likelihood its students will fall behind those school districts who truly understand the value of in-person education. I will be monitoring the Hilliard City School District's response to changing circumstances in Franklin County and if I feel that the district is putting litigation risk over the benefits of in-person education, good luck asking my family or any of the other Hilliard City School District families for money on your next levy. Why would we voluntarily tax ourselves if a major portion of the school year is conducted online? If the district continues to adopt a fear-based approach to in-person education, many families are going to either home school their children, enroll their children in a private school, or move to a district that values education more than it fears litigation. How many more months of education are we going to deprive our children for a respiratory virus with no vaccine in sight? It's time to start living again, to assume a reasonable level of risk again as generations before us did in response to their challenging circumstances, and its time for the Hilliard City School District to provide in-person instruction for our children.

Thank you.

.....

**Rebecca Jacobs - 3416 Ridge Gap Road Columbus, OH 43221**

Dear Board Members,

Franklin County Health only gives recommendations. Mazzola is not a doctor or pediatrician. The current head of ODH is a lawyer. On the other hand, you're aware of what the AAP and CDC have to say in favor of in-person learning.

Over a week ago I emailed the county health department and Messrs. Mazzola and Jones. I asked for supportive data and science upon which they based their recommendation, whether they consulted physicians in the fields of mental health, pediatrics, and preventative medicine, and if they compared the risks of Covid in children to the risks of neglect, abuse, suicide, and other mental health issues. I received no reply.

The school board has the power to choose to open in person instead of eLearning. While we seem to be trending towards orange, what impact will OSU's mandatory testing have upon our color? It is arbitrary

and capricious to peg our educational format upon testing in other parts of the county, especially with the prevalence of false positives.

Indeed, the county alert system is problematic and violates the right to a thorough and efficient system of common schools. In Ohio, your county of residence determines whether you go to a school building and interact with teachers or whether your education depends on your parent's ability to provide solid internet connection and support for any e-learning issues.

It appears that the county and state health departments are trying to force you to elevate fear of liability over educational integrity. Please don't sacrifice our children's mental health, education and futures upon the altar of appeasing the lawyers and politicians.

.....

**Amy Lahmers - 3554 Boathouse Drive, Hilliard, OH 43026**

I am reaching out in a spirit of deep gratitude for your leadership of Hilliard City Schools (HCS) during this unprecedented time.

I understand that the decisions related to back to school are complex and difficult and am writing to encourage our leaders to live a "faith over fear" mentality. Specifically, instead of deferring decision making about what's best for our Hilliard children to county/state officials and fearing legal risk, let's leverage the expertise of our Hilliard educators and move forward with confidence in the restart plan as presented by Dr. Marschhausen at the July 7 community Zoom session (and utilizing investment made in PPE, desk dividers, social distancing, safety plans, etc.). County public health recommendations should not be treated as mandates. Certainly, HCS legal counsel can be leveraged to back our K-12 schools and children, who are already playing school sports, spending time at local daycares, and visiting churches, stores, restaurants, etc. which remain open.

HCS are already leading the way with a progressive on-line learning academy option for those who prefer an on-line learning experience. For the rest of us awaiting the decision about restart plans, including my two daughters, I urge you to provide an in-person option to start the school year, balancing both the health and safety of staff, students, and community with the vital role of education.

An in-person offering aligns with the both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), who are calling for schools to prioritize students being physically present on campus.

Again, I implore you to provide an in-person learning option to start the school year on August 24. Thank you to you and all the administrators, teachers, and other school personnel for your continued commitment and dedication to the well-being of Hilliard students.

.....

**Christina J Hough - 5710 Palos Ln Hilliard OH 43026**

Hello,

I'll start off introducing myself, my name is Christina Hough. I'm the Mom of 3 girls, a soon to be Sophomore @ Bradley/Tolles, a to be fourth grader @ 4th grader & To be- Kindergartner at Horizon Elementary. We've lived in Hilliard since my fourth grader started kindergarten, and solely moved to Hilliard for the schools. I cannot say enough good things about all of my children's teachers, staff and everyone we've encountered! My older 2 do have ADHD, my oldest has an IEP. Let me just say that March-May was a JOKE in our household.

I'm a single Mom, essential worker at a pediatric office in Columbus. I've been a Medical Assistant for 13 years so I'm not biased or clueless about this epidemic. I truly soaked and retain ALL info from the eight pediatricians I work for and with, and when I tell you THEY want and think children should be in school, I'm not even kidding. I've worked through H1N1, numerous flu and RSV seasons and I've seen some really sick kids, and babies, even having to call and start oxygen on some during RSV season, so when I tell you I've not heard one serious thing, complication etc. about any of our patients, families etc., I'm not lying. I've also talked to numerous NCH residents and the they said the same. I feel like for some reason whether it's because this virus is new, unknown, no vaccines for it, I'm not sure it's been really all about scaring people and being hyped by the media... yes older people, elderly, people with underlying medical and health issues this can be fatal, I acknowledge that, but my point is, OUR CHILDREN. My kids probably didn't learn anything the last few months! I am UNABLE to work, and come home teach 3 kids, I just can't do it physically and mentally. They lie about what's due what's not due, what they've done etc. I don't need a babysitter. My kids go to daycare ... what I want is my kids to not Regress and continue on this slope of unhealthy mental, emotional and educational health. It's draining for us all, my kids don't understand. They're unmotivated, I'm confused, it's just a mess. I feel that if ANY parents have a concern they should keep their kids home, that is their choice! As far as teachers, why out of EVERY JOB in Columbus, Franklin county etc., do they not have to work, they will be around the same students every day, I see 100 DIFFERENT patients/parents A DAY! So do Walmart, Kroger, gas stations, restaurants, everyone else, I don't understand why they're the only ones that are concerned for their health, when everyone else is out working and open, that's saying we don't matter... I truly hope you look at AAP recommendations, cdc and others. I saw the New Albany ER dr/father that spoke at new Albany's school board meeting I feel like YOU ALL should watch it. It's truly how I feel, and likely many other parents. It's going to be okay, we're all going to be fine.

If we continue eLearning, I'm VERY concerned for my oldest daughter's health mentally and emotionally, with her iep I will literally lose my mind trying to keep up with helping her with her work and assignments. I don't know what will come of it but I just know it's not good... please please look at other model districts like new Albany, Dublin and surrounding franklin counties. In the eLearning model, to log on 9:30-11:30 and again 1:30-3:30, will likely not happen, my kids are at daycare they're only letting them on iPads 1 hour a day... and as far as my highschooler, she'll be alone, my kids will literally be failing until they return to school, we cannot participate in this madness!!

Thank you so much for your time, and I really hope you read this!  
Thanks again

-----  
**Amanda Powers - 5633 Maple Dell Ct. Hilliard OH 43026**

The Ohio Department of Education has laid out content standards for grades K-12. How you plan to address the standards of social and emotional well-being? How do you plan to address the standards of large motor skill development? How do you plan to address the standards of learning to become socially

responsible citizens, learning to work with a group and respect others, learning how to wait in line, raise your hand, and be respectful to other students and teachers? These are not skills that can taught over a screen. They require social interaction. How do you plan to engage students so they are not staring at a screen for 6+ hours a day? If these skills are not addressed, then our school has failed. The Hilliard City Schools mission statement focuses on academics, interests, and mindset. It states, “Ready for tomorrow.” How you plan to implement this mission with 100% online learning?

.....

**Erin Fetzer - 3152 Benbrook Pond Dr. Hilliard, OH 43026**

I am respectfully requesting that this question be presented at the school board meeting:

By approving the safe restart plan and beginning the school year remotely, the school day for students will be shortened from 6-7 hours down to 2-3. Many students are on IEPs. How do you intend to meet the needs of these students when there will not physically be adequate time with a shortened day to cover IEP specifications? Aren't there legal ramifications to this?

Ohio State University will soon be reopening for in person classes. This will most likely impact county numbers. How can we approve a plan that will largely keep children out of an in person setting when institutions such as OSU will be open? Shouldn't schools, and the social, emotional, and physical needs of children, be a higher priority? Shouldn't any case increase due to large institutions not factor into whether or not our children can return to school? Will this be taken into consideration, despite county levels, as to when we can reopen for in person learning? Furthermore, if our decisions as to when to physically open schools are based on health department recommendations, wouldn't it be much more feasible to open a school in our district compared to a much larger university?

.....

**Dana and David Miller – 5019 Claymill Drive**

I strongly think the kids need to go back to school full time/5 days a week. Everything is opening up! Daycares - business as usual. food stores - open! Nail salons - open! Zoombezi Bay -OPEN! I've been back to work since May....a sales rep, in and out of doctor offices.... this is getting out of control, and who is it hurting? Our children.... the people that will be running our country one day. Dumbing them down, that's what we're doing by online learning. Not all kids learn that way!! One of my children has a 504 and was getting ready to test for an IEP.... how is the school

System going to accommodate his needs? Certainly not by online learning because that doesn't work for him. He got all A's and B's during eLearning....and that's because we helped him 100%. He couldn't just go watch a video and do the assignment. I know online learning is going to be “different” this time around, but it's not how my son learns. I had to request his Supportive Studies teacher zoom with him during the shutdown...nobody reached out to me or my husband regarding his 504, the IEP process during the shutdown... I don't mind fighting for my kid, but not 1 person reached out to us about his accommodations, and now he's going into 7th grade, pretty behind in our opinion....and he might have to navigate his learning on his own come 8/24 since my husband and I are back at work FT?? I need to know how the school system is going to accommodate my child, test him for an IEP and make sure he's getting the services he needs and deserves. The schools need to open. And if a teacher is afraid to come back because of the virus, there are plenty of new teachers looking for jobs. I'm sorry, but I'm upset about Hilliard considering online learning FT. Private schools are opening.... Hilliard needs to open. If we don't,

this could change the future for many of the children in the district, and not in a good way. Please, please do the right thing for the kids and open the schools.

.....

**Amy Hillard - 4858 Sarasota Ct 43026**

Good Evening,

My name is Amy Hilliard and I live at 4858 Sarasota Ct 43026, across the street from Tharp. I have 2 daughters- one is a freshman at Davidson, and one is in 8th grade at Weaver.

I'd like to thank you all for the hard work and dedication going in to the school year. I know it has to feel impossible to come up with the right way to handle things. I would like to share our family's perspective on things going in to the school year.

While we do not have the same stresses as some families do (elementary aged kids struggling with child care, iep's, etc.), we do have some issues pertaining to mental health. Teenaged girls are incredibly emotional as you all know, and to say things have been calm here since March would be a huge understatement. They need normalcy, not only with school work, but also socially and physically. Yes, they've been with their friends throughout the summer, but it just isn't the same as going to school with them daily. Depression is a huge issue here in our house, and while taking them to a therapist has been talked about here, getting them in to talk to someone is months away as these doctors are booked solid.

Coronavirus is a real thing, and it's not just going to disappear one day. It's something we're all going to have to live with, like the flu. We cannot stop life and just hope it goes away, or we will never get back to normal, and our kids will never get back in to class. For those parents that are not ready to put their kids back in the classroom, that is their decision, and they can opt to do the online academy. But for my family, having my kids back in the classroom is a must! Their mental health and stability is much more of a worry than a virus that kids are having no severe issues with.

I hope your vote takes into account the overall health of our kids, not just the coronavirus issues. Please consider having the kids in class in person!

Thanks for listening.

.....

**Amy Gonzales - 3657 Wenwood Dr. Hilliard 43026**

I have two kids, one who is entering 4th grade and one who is entering 8th grade.

I am a soccer coach here in Hilliard as well. I am around children constantly. I listen to their chatter before practice and at water breaks. All the kids that I work with, including my own 2 boys, desperately need school. School is so much more than just about learning. School is about learning to work with others and creating friendship that help kids deal with normal hardships that coming with growing up. Kids are learning about who they are and what they can give to this world and they cannot do that within the walls of their home, with limited outside contact.



Kids are lonely. My one son is not old enough to have his own phone. He can, of course, do a zoom chat with one of his friends but it is not the same. Human contact and face to face conversations cannot be replaced by computer screens. My son is aching to be around other kids his own age. He misses his friends desperately. We are lucky enough that I am able to be with my kids at home on a daily basis. I can help comfort and support them but for many kids, their parents are at work all day. I hear my soccer kids talking at practice. They are lonely throughout the day and are spending too much time home alone. It is not healthy for their hearts. They need human, face to face interaction with teachers and friends.

Please, please don't take school away from our kids.

---

**Ryan Jacobs - 3416 Ridge Gap Road Columbus, OH 43221**

Dear Board Members, First, please reconsider using the Ohio alert system as part of our reopening plans, meaning please do not tether all decisions to the alert system. Keep this decision and all decisions local.

Second, if you DO decide to use the Ohio alert system, please include this caveat with all levels: "\*at discretion of superintendent in conjunction with the County Health Department."

Third, I am troubled by the singular focus on COVID as the determining factor for the reopening plans. As stated so well by the physicians who corresponded with Fairfield County recently, "while COVID-19 metrics are important, so are the rates of youth suicide, substance abuse, drug overdoses, physical and sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, violent crime, and mental health disorders. The decision of how best to educate our children, while protecting them, should not focus exclusively on one aspect alone as we learn to live with COVID-19 in our community. School leaders and parents should consider the full spectrum of benefits and risks of both in-person and virtual learning as plans are made for the fall." (see <https://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/story/news/2020/07/26/local-doctors-respond-fdh-reconsider-having-person-school/5514163002/>). As noted by those physicians and as applicable to our county - area hospitals have available capacity.

I request that the board vote to resume in-person classes, 5 days per week. I applaud the creation of the online academy for those who choose 100% remote learning, and I recommend that all other students be allowed to resume their education in person as normal.

---

**Kristen J. Hosni - 5084 Crockett Drive, Hilliard, OH 43026**

I am a divorced mom and have three children in Hilliard City Schools, one in elementary, one in middle school and one in high school. I would like to express my desire for the Board to please reconsider hybrid and/or in-person education for the beginning of the school year.

I am most concerned for my 1st grader. This is a crucial time for young students who are just learning to read, write and do math. I am not asking for a babysitter for my child, but I am asking for a quality education, and I don't see how that can happen entirely via eLearning. While my two older children have already received a quality education and will most likely be able to thrive even online, this is not the case for my 6-year-old. My daughter is very shy and does not speak to people she does not know. How will she be able to trust and feel comfortable around a teacher that she hasn't met in person? How will she learn and grow via a few hours of education over an iPad? How will she be assessed for her reading

comprehension? My daughter will need help in an all eLearning environment, and I am not trained to be an elementary school teacher. Additionally, all three of my kids need their teachers and friends for their mental and emotional well-being!

This virus is not going away anytime soon and then what? I am asking you to please reconsider Hybrid or all in school. Thank you for your time!

.....

**Les Carrier - 4394 Shire Creek Ct. Hilliard Ohio 43026**

Good Evening members of the Hilliard City School Board:

I wish I was able to call each of you but just decided it was best to attempt to articulate my feelings through letter/email 📧 , and I'm sure you've been hearing plenty. The vitriol can be tough and I want to start by thanking each of you for your service. No one signed up for this one, and the situation presents nearly an impossible acceptable disposition.

I write to advocate for allowing our families the option to slowly (phased) get our children back to school with in person instruction. With many families already choosing on-line instructional models, this should significantly help those who could choose in person instruction to keep safe (mask, distance, sanitize). As civic leaders, these decisions are incredibly difficult and there is no right or wrong (pools and splash pads keep coming to mind). But only best estimates, risk assessments, and an incredible amount of static are present today. It is my belief, parents are the best to decide what's right for their children and familial circumstances.

First, to our awesome teachers and administrators, if your older or have pre-existing issues, please sign up for on-line only. COVID clearly effects the older crowd significantly and Covid is no picnic. However, I view the services HCS provides to our families as essential to our children's continued mental and physical wellbeing. It is no secret our schools may be the only hot meals that an unfortunately large percentage of kids will be served in a given day. My belief is there is a significant percentage of families without the support structure and means (wi-if, counselors, etc.) to successfully utilize on-line only learning. An on-line only format could have a significantly disparate impact on our communities most vulnerable families, exacerbating other societal issues (depression, anxiety, food insecurity, etc.).

Generally speaking, families with means can attend charter, religious, or other institutions and secure an in person education. This clearly presents a disparate impact on those of lesser economic means. In fact, arguably constitutional issues can arise (equal protection).

If outbreaks or flares occur, we circle the wagons, we close for period (on-line) just as we have done with severe flu outbreaks in the past. We expand the day to allow for distancing in shifts, we expand the year to accommodate the mission! The library sits empty. While COVID is not the flu, we monitor, educate, and move forward following the best safety and health guidelines possible; but it is my hope any board decision tomorrow clearly takes into account and assesses that a large number of vulnerable student's education and well-being may be irreparably harmed due to lack of means and by on-line only instruction and Hilliard is the place families come to gain the diverse education needed to avoid these vicious cycles of poverty.

Respectfully

-----

**Lisa J Imwalle - 5177 Bressler Dr Hilliard, Ohio 43026**

I am writing to you to express my concerns about the possibility of our children not returning to school to receive essential face to face instruction.

As you know, I have been an active Hilliard City School parent for over 27 years. All ten of my children have and are still attending Hilliard Schools. My seventh graduated from Darby in 2019 and my youngest three boys will all be at Darby next school year with the last to graduate in 2025. My oldest graduated in 2005.

I have seen this district triple in size since my arrival in Hilliard in 1990. And my children have graced the halls of many buildings in its growth and have we have outlasted many teachers.

Some of my oldest children's friends now teach and coach my youngest. I have truly seen and experienced the most of what Hilliard can and does offer my children. And I would also qualify myself quite experienced with the unique perspective of being the mother of so many children and how specific methods of learning has affected my children.

I, along with the instruction of so many of Hilliard's wonderful teachers have been able to propel my kids to realize their potential and promising futures. Even with the bumps and hiccups along the way, I believe my children have succeeded in the lives they imagined.

When the "epidemic" hit our world last spring and sent our lives in a tailspin, it took its worst punch at our kids. They were sent into a world of fear and the unknown. And it took away the one important "normal" thing they had in their lives, school. Not only that, but many parents became unemployed, as I was, and money problems added to the horribleness. Parents now had to worry, and many still do, about not only feeding their children, but having the burden of instructing them as well. Not all parents were able to "work" from home, and had to go out as an "essential" worker with the added worry of who would be with their children. And who would help them with their school work? And those of my friends who "worked" from home found themselves juggling both work and "schooling" and not very well.

Not every child "jumped" out of bed and ran for their iPad first thing in the morning. Many weren't even checking in. Many stopped caring about the assignments. They all came to realize that it didn't really matter.

Attitudes worsened and the desire to learn became a distant thought. Every "assignment" became a fleeting attempt at a true lesson and half~ efforts become the new "normal."

Children aren't stupid. And as my three teenage boys frequently told me, "what was going to happen if they didn't get the work done?"

Did it really matter? What were they "learning" anyway?

Everything became a fight in my household. Every lesson. Every assignment. They did NOT want my input. They did NOT want my instruction. They would NOT listen to what needed to be done. I learned to let it go.

But I another worry. If I could not make them listen, and if grades and the “threat” of not handing assignments in on time was no incentive, what was? Nothing.

For all my boys knew, the world was coming to an end and NOTHING mattered. Not getting up. Not getting dressed. And certainly not worrying about school. Or grades. Their mom was home because she couldn’t go to work and make money. They were worried about ME. They were worried about LIFE. School took a backseat to everything. And as “normal” as I tried to make our household, I couldn’t get them to buy into it. Their lives were/are NOT normal.

And I truly believe that not being able to send them back this fall will only strengthen their belief that it all doesn’t matter.

I don’t want that for my kids. I don’t want them on my couch 24/7 or in their rooms, or escaping into the world of video games.

They need to be in school. With their teachers. With their friends. With a glimmer of hope that “normal” is returning and therefore their own lives and purpose. I couldn’t believe the difference it made in one of my boys when I was finally able to drop him off at XC practice! Just wow!

I want my last 3 boys to have what Hilliard Schools has always given my children. Their wonderful, glorious future. And the chance to be kids again.

Thank you

.....

**Alisha Duke - 2443 Punderson Dr, Hilliard**

To our Hilliard Board of Education:

I appreciate the hard work of all our board members, Superintendent and Hilliard staff across our district. I wanted to take a moment to write and encourage you in your decision making process this evening to consider the WHOLE child when you consider remote versus in-person learning. There have been many doctors who have presented compelling evidence that we should be more concerned with mental health, suicide, drug abuse, family abuse and emotional health and well-being of our students right now compared to COVID-19. More students are dying of these issues than they are of COVID-19. While I understand that teachers and staff are a huge piece of this puzzle, I love our teachers at our school dearly, and their health and well-being cannot be neglected either, you have already offered them an opportunity to teach remotely if they wanted to choose that route. The Superintendent informed of us of those numbers on a previous zoom meeting, letting the Hilliard parents know that we were very close to evening out the number of teachers who requested to teach remotely versus those who wish to teach in person. Furthermore, as the district has presented its plans for returning back to school, it has become abundantly clear to me that precautions have been put in place with masks, distancing, and the numerous rules and restrictions on student movement and behavior. We have done our due diligence, and holding back in-person learning out of fear does not make it the right choice. I would encourage you to not only consider the Franklin County Public Health charts, and the fact that they did not mandate learning plans, but also consider the parents who are strongly requesting that their children be back to in-person instruction. The roughly 80% of Hilliard parents who did NOT choose the Hilliard Online Academy also knew what they

were signing up for, and it speaks a lot of our parents and district that only 20% wanted to be online. The majority are trying to make their voice heard and are coming up against a wall, despite Hilliard taking all necessary precautions. Please vote for our children tonight.

Thank you for your time.

.....

**Lindsey Alban - at 6119 Woodsvew Way, Hilliard**

I am writing on behalf of the Alban family - Jack and Sophia Alban.

I am asking that the board please reconsider the back to school plan and consider Hybrid for level 3. I would also suggest considering different metrics for us. The CDC and local and national pediatricians all state it is the best interest of the children to be school. I would be willing to sign a waiver for them to go back!

I have watched my socially active kids become lonely and play an insane amount of video games the past 5 months. They are begging to go back to school. We have spent the past 2 weeks writing and re writing our schedule to make 2 working parents and 2 toddlers work. I do not believe 2 hours of zoom + independent time is sufficient or Good enough for our kids. We have considered private tutors and private school to supplement the online learning. This will put a huge financial stress on our family.

We love our schools and our teachers! There has to be a way for everyone to be in the class and be safe. I believe our children need our teachers, a routine and to be w their friends. It's in their best interest mentally and socially. This is our future and we must invest in them.

Please reconsider the current plan. Thank you for your time.

.....

**Becky Frim - 8931 Stillwater Galloway**

There is no 100% win. However, I plead that you re consider and allow the kids to go Hybrid. At least then my daughter would get some sort of interaction with her peers. Having a 504 plan did not help much last year when we went eLearning. The big inning of the year is rough. I'm really concerned that if we head straight to eLearning we are setting her up to fail. I'm not a teacher and have no clue how to teach her and give help while I'm working. I know the teachers are concerned but we all have to go back to work and deal with it. I did and so did my son. I really would like to know how you expect working parents to work and yet make sure their children are zooming when they need to.

.....

**Lisa Breedlove Chaffee - 5981 Lakefront Ave, Hilliard**

I am very concerned and oppose 100% on line learning. Children with IEP and 504 plans NEED to be in school full time. There will be more harm done to our kids keeping them out of school than allowing them to attend.

Why is the board ignoring the advice from the American Pediatrics Association and the CDC?

Here is food for thought. There have been multiple news reports of numerous false positive Covid test results. We all know how the politicians have politicized this and using it to get rid of Trump.

I am a medical coder. I know for a fact the Covid numbers have been wrong from the beginning. We did not have a specific diagnosis code for Covid until 4/1/20. Prior to that we only had a general coronavirus code. So anyone who tested positive for ANY strain of coronavirus was reported as Covid.

The solution is simple. Allow those who want to keep their kids home to do so with on line academy. Allow teachers who are at high risk to stay home. Let the kids whose parents want them in the school to do so full time. With strict guidelines. If a student shows up to school with any signs of sickness send them back home.

DO THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR KIDS!

Students can return safely.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2020-06-29/pediatric-group-calls-for-children-to-return-to-schools-despite-coronavirus>

"The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020," the group representing 67,000 pediatricians wrote. "Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation."

"This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality," the guidance continued. "Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families."

The recommendations acknowledge that infectious disease experts are still learning about the effects of COVID-19 and that all reopening policies must be flexible to account for rapidly changing scenarios. But the academic, physical and mental upsides associated with reopening outweigh the risks, the group concludes, especially as evidence mounts that children may not be the super-spreaders medical experts initially assumed they were and that they tend to exhibit milder symptoms when they do contract the virus.

Perhaps most importantly, the pediatric group concludes, reopening is essential for the country's most vulnerable students, including poor students and students of color, who often rely more heavily on the multitude of services schools provide.

"Beyond supporting the educational development of children and adolescents, schools play a critical role in addressing racial and social inequity," the guidance reads. "As such, it is critical to reflect on the differential impact SARS-CoV-2 and the associated school closures have had on different races, ethnic and vulnerable populations."

.....

**Vickie Green - 6108 Jimson drive Galloway, OH 43119**

I am a very concerned parent of a Hilliard high school student! I am not happy with the current recommendations of the school board at this time and feel that remote or even hybrid solutions will NOT be an adequate or effective solution!

My daughter will also be attending the Tolles career exploration academy this coming year and would be spending the first part of her day there! I have been struggling trying to figure out how her schedule would work if one is remote and one is hybrid! Will transportation be provided as promised when she enrolled? And if both start hybrid, the days do not coordinate so how does it work for her if she's at school that day but not at Tolles? Am I then responsible for taking her to school when her normal classes would begin or is there a plan in place for additional in class learning at the high school?

Our children have struggled enough with remote learning in the spring and I understand it was thrown on everyone last minute, but she at most had 1.5 to 2 hours of schoolwork each day which is unacceptable! Our kids need to be back in school 100% and I am not understanding why this is not happening when the CDC and AAP have been recommending that for some time now! I would like the following questions to be answered because these decisions do not make sense!

- 1) Why are you recommending schools close?
- 2) What supportive data and science do you base your decisions upon?
- 3) Have you consulted physicians in the fields of mental health, pediatrics, and preventative medicine?
- 4) Have you compared the risks of COVID in children to the risks of neglect, abuse, suicide, and other mental health issues?

The current county data according to the CDC does not support the concept of remote or even hybrid learning! I am very much struggling with why we are not allowing our kids back to school full time when literally every other business in the county is opened up!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration!

.....

**Kim Hartman - 5563 Rubble Ln. Hillard, OH 43026**

Board members and superintendent,

Trying to eliminate all risk is not only impossible but is a hopeless way to live life. Our community needs to hear hope from our leaders. We have heard nothing but doom and gloom for the past several months, and I am asking for our elected Hilliard school board to realize this trend doesn't have to continue.

Robert Redfield, Director of CDC testified before the United States Congress on July 31, 2020, that there will be significant public health consequences if schools do not reopen, including but not limited to, an uptick in drug use and suicide, and a general decline of student mental health care and nutritional support.

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued guidance on June 25, 2020, recommending that students return to in-person instruction in the fall of 2020.

On August 4, 2020 Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, referenced a news article documenting a University of Wisconsin School of Medicine study surveying student athletes and finding that two thirds of high school athletes are experiencing depression and anxiety over cancelled sports.

On August 3, 2020, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Fauci who has been the leader of nationwide calls for shut downs, social distancing, and other measures to prevent the spread of Covid, stated that schools and college campuses should re-open in order for students to regain psychological and nutritional benefits.

The health advisory system that we are using to determine whether or not our schools open to in-person instruction is flawed and does not prove whether or not it's safe to return. You cannot measure safety exclusively on Covid cases. The major indicator that keeps us from moving from red (all E-Learning) to orange (hybrid learning) is determined on cases per 100k residents. We witnessed just last week that false positive tests exist in our case count. How can we rely on a factor that is easily manipulated or faulty based on poorly manufactured tests? Even if 3% of our tests produce a false positive that could be the difference in if our schools can move to Hybrid. We cannot trust these numbers to be the deciding factor. Our school is prepared with the necessary safety precautions needed to welcome students and staff on August 24th.

We are not asking you to force students, teachers, or staff into school buildings against their will. However, we do know that roughly 80% of families' desire in-school instruction. Teachers who do want to teach remotely can. Students who want to learn remotely can. We have to meet the needs of each student as a whole.

Thanks for your time.

---

**Jeff Pohlmann - 3425 Patcon Way, Hilliard, OH 43026**

Dear Members of the Board and Dr. Marschhausen,

Sixteen years ago, my family started planting roots in the Hilliard community on the idea that Hilliard schools were great, and that strong schools are built by great family involvement and participation. Tonight, I implore you to consider the needs of all kids. In addition to COVID-19, there is a parallel pandemic going on, with numbers that continue to rise in children for: domestic violence, suicides, child abuse, obesity, and mental health. One simple thing will help reduce these trends, opening schools. We are all aware of the COVID numbers. We have taken the surveys, made decisions for in person versus Online Academy and 82% of us have weighed the risks, and decided as families, that we want our children in schools. Throughout the summer, I have consumed several board meetings, superintendent zoom meetings, and various email communications, and the sum of it all is, "we aren't the health experts or lawyers, so we will just listen to them." The leader of FCPH isn't even a doctor, yet our local schools are only taking his advice of a virtual start to the year. This goes strongly against the CDC, World Health Organization, and experts/leaders in the medical community. The bottom line is, everything we do in regard to COVID-19 be it schools, opening businesses, sports, or anything is liability. The lawyers for Hilliard City Schools have said that the liability is too great to open our schools. Did anyone on the board



or superintendent challenge that recommendation? Roughly 40 kids have died from COVID vs 475 kids during a typical flu season. How have the lawyers ever let us open our doors in previous years with such a sizeable liability exposure with a similar transmittable disease? Hilliard Schools slogan is #ReadyForTomorrow or shall we change it to #ScaredForTomorrow? How is it possible to be #ReadyForTomorrow with all this online learning? Children are missing many facets of education by relying on this virtual world. Will this virtual learning help the district bridge the Ohio Dept of Education's Performance Index Score gap we have with similar neighboring districts: Hilliard #326, Dublin #99, Upper Arlington #67, Olentangy #25, New Albany #19? The answer is NO.

We have given you five months to look at the data, plan a course of action, and take steps to live in this new world. Shields, masks, plexiglass dividers, etc. have been secured and available for the start of school. Schools have never been cleaner and new procedures and processes have been established to decrease the spread. Children have grown accustomed to wearing masks and are imploring us parents to go to school to be around other kids, to play sports, and have activities. Much vigor was shown by the parents and school leaders to get the kids back on the playing fields when they got shut down a few weeks ago. I hope true leadership will stand up with the same amount of urgency to get our kids back where it really matters, IN SCHOOLS on day #1, August 24th. It's an ideal way for this school's leadership to kick the can down the road, hoping someone else will make a decision for them that you are afraid to own. Leading oriented by fear is not leading at all, stand up for the children and get them in school now.

.....

**Karen Pease - 2688 Westwind Court Hilliard, OH 43026**

Hello,

As both a parent and an elementary school teacher I am writing to express my support for in person education to occur in all Hilliard schools at the beginning of the school year. I experienced virtual education from a unique perspective this spring as I tried to engage and educate not only my own class of 4th graders but also my three children in grades 1, 5 and 8 simultaneously. Let me assure you... it was NOT a positive experience for any of us.

My eldest has always been a self-motivated learner and was able to navigate the work without much incident, but let me assure you, she was not learning. She completed the assignments she was given, but her education was little more than the digital equivalent of giving her a workbook and doing it on her own in the corner with no interaction at all.

My younger two both struggled, one in reading and one in math. I worry daily how their lack of access to quality instruction will continue to affect their education, confidence and over all mental health moving forward.

I understand the logic behind using the county level system as the basis for determining what school should look like, but it is a flawed system. If daycares, sports practices, dance classes, bowling allies, restaurants and gyms can open up safely than surely schools can do the same.

The recent study out of Saxony, Germany showed that viral spread among children is far less than experts originally thought and neither their teachers nor their family members were affected with any increased exposure or risk. These kids returning to schools in Europe and Asia are the ones our children will need to

compete against in the future for college admissions and in the job market. Please do not continue to disadvantage our children out of misplaced fear over one possible risk.

COVID is only one obstacle we face, the risks of subpar education (through no fault of the teachers, let me be clear on that) mental health and overall stability are far greater than one virus that has not affected many children and is not a significant risk for the overwhelming majority of those under the age of 60.

.....

**Candace DeLuca - 6010 Morganwood Sq Hilliard, OH 43026**

I have three sons who all went to Catholic Schools until my oldest son decided to transfer to Hilliard Bradley for his junior year last fall. Now, we will have a senior and a freshman at Bradley this month. I have been impressed with everything about Hilliard City Schools, especially the teachers, counselors and coaches, from the day we took our first tour of Bradley last summer. However, I have major concerns about HCSD's back-to-school plan for the year.

It is my understanding that Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) is recommending that all schools in Franklin County only offer remote learning due to the current "red level" of Franklin County based on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Because of this recommendation, I am sure HCSD, along with many other Franklin County public school districts, feel your hands are tied because of possible litigation. Yet, national experts including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html>) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (<https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2020/pediatricians-educators-and-superintendents-urge-a-safe-return-to-school-this-fall/>) have deemed it not only safe for in-person classroom learning to resume, but also that "extended school closure is harmful to children."

Franklin County is currently at the "red level," but only meets two of seven criteria to be at that level according to the State's own Public Health Advisory System. It is my belief that the Governor and the state of Ohio have applied pressure to county health departments in an attempt to backhandedly remove local control from districts using FCPH as a pawn. Since you and the School Board are the ultimate decision-makers in Hilliard City Schools, I implore you to stand up to the Governor and the FCPH. You should demand to know how and why this recommendation was made by FCPH despite national experts suggesting it is safe and critical to bring back in-person learning for the sake of our children. I am sure you and everyone at HCSD had spent countless hours preparing this summer for students, teachers and staff to return in a safe hybrid manner at the "red level" before the FCPH announcement made you change your recommendations.

The facts and statistics of COVID-19 do NOT warrant online-only learning for our children. HCSD worked hard to establish an online academy for any parents who deem it "unsafe" for their children to return to school this month, and that is their choice. For the rest of the parents in the district, we want the option to send our kids back to school in front of teachers in a classroom where they learn best. The last quarter of last school year put our students behind in terms of learning, let alone the physical safety, mental health benefits, social and emotional development, and nutritional health that in-school learning provides our children. I can only imagine the damage that will be caused with continuing the unwarranted online-only learning.

I implore you to please stand up and do what's right! Your colleagues in New Albany (<https://www.thisweeknews.com/news/20200807/new-albany-plain-local-pushes-back-start-date-to-sept-8>) and in Cuyahoga County have stood up to their health department and are moving forward with the reopening plans they already had in place (<https://www.cleveland19.com/2020/08/03/brecksville-broadview-heights-board-education-votes-disregard-cuyahoga-county-health-officials-advice-reopening/>). Please do not bow down to Franklin County Public Health and do not scrap your safe, hybrid reopening plans in lieu of online-only learning.

The children in our district deserve to be put first. They deserve to be in school. They deserve better... period. I know there are a couple of bills in the Ohio legislature to lessen the litigation liabilities related to COVID-19 lawsuits against public school districts. I am hopeful those will pass soon. Please know your efforts to get kids back in school this month are so appreciated.

.....

**Sarah Pauley - 6168 Lloret Court, Columbus, OH 43228**

My name is Sara Pawley. My son, Drew, is starting his freshman this year at Hilliard Bradley high school. I understand that the Superintendent has deemed if we are still under a level 3 that it will be full time ELearning for the Hilliard School District.

While I understand his concern for the kids, most kids, including mine, do not handle eLearning well. Drew did not handle eLearning well last spring while in 8th grade at Hilliard Memorial. His grades suffered significantly. He failed Math, which he is very good at... We (my husband) and I tried very hard to monitor his progress with his teachers, he still failed Math 8. Drew told me that he really needed the structure of being in school. It was not necessarily to see his friends (which was a factor) but he needed to be in class with his teachers on a daily basis. He told me that he just needed to be in an environment where he knows that he has a set amount of time to learn and get his school work done. With eLearning he was not able to have that set time to do his work. We tried to manage this...with little success.

So please consider having structured in-school classes at least for part of the student body that really needs this structured environment.

Another note...So far football is still on the list of sports that can still compete this fall... So, this makes no sense at all to me... You can play a contact sport but you cannot have kids go to school. Don't you think that the priorities are wrong here??? My son plays baseball and he had to miss out on his 8th grade baseball season last spring because of this virus and the reaction of many schools. My son in a normal year should be lifting and conditioning for high school baseball at this point, but because of the districts (and other schools) have deemed that spring sports (non-contact sports) cannot practice... But contact sports such as football can?

I just think that if you are going to allow contact sports to compete, shouldn't they go to school.? Shouldn't non-contact sports no matter what season (fall, winter, and spring) should be allowed to at least condition/lift? My son has been playing summer ball all summer...w/o any issues... Again, where are the priorities? Football is ok because it brings in \$\$?

My son, Drew, is not the only kid that needs the structure of in school learning... I am in all favor of the hybrid system, going some weeks 2 days a week, then the next going 3 days a week. It's not ideal but at

least it gives the kid some semblance of structure... At least in the higher grades they can hopefully be responsible enough to wear a mask while in school...

I am working in an office environment with a mask on. I do not like it one bit but at least I am working again...

Again, VOTE to go to the Hybrid system....

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

---

**Beth Murdoch, 3056 Hemlock Edge Dr., Hilliard, OH 43026**

Below is a comment regarding the re-opening of schools that I would like to have read during this evening's school board meeting. (Note: the footnoted materials do not need to be read, I am providing this as source material for the claims I make in my statement.)

I am in favor of sending our kids back to school 5 days a week, with the Online Academy option for those who prefer not to attend school inperson. If however, you feel you must tie this decision to the Franklin County Health Advisory level, I am asking that you re-consider making any changes to the original Restart Plan allowing for all-in attendance under Franklin County health advisory level 1 with hybrid attendance under levels 2 & 3.

You may be aware that New Albany schools voted just a few days ago to have 5-day-a-week, in-person school starting the second week in September! The New Albany/Plain Local Board of Education considered ALL of the evidence, asked the hard questions that need to be asked, and did the right thing for their students. Just like Hilliard City Schools, the majority of parents requested in-person school and the New Albany Board of Education stood up for their kids! We deserve the same thing from you. Our kids & teachers want to go back to school. Please make your decision based on facts, not fear.

Let's examine some of the facts.

- [1] There are many flaws in the collection and reporting of the data presented in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, but since indicator 1, New Cases per Capita, is currently keeping Franklin county from dropping to level 2, I'd like to focus on this one. Please note that a case is defined as "The total number of cases during the past two weeks for the county . . . Includes both confirmed and CDC Expanded Case Definition (Probable)." The number of cases is a meaningless measure because there is no clarity on which kinds of tests are specifically being used to document a "case," what their rates of false positivity are, or whether they are even detecting an active infection. Furthermore, none of the data available from the state has addressed how many "cases" are "probable" and what the definition of a "probable" case is.
- Sweden's decision to keep schools open during the pandemic resulted in no higher rate of infection among its schoolchildren than in neighboring Finland, where schools did temporarily close. Severe cases of COVID-19 were very rare among both Swedish and Finnish children aged 1 to 19, with no deaths reported. A comparison of the incidence of COVID-19 in different professions suggested no increased risk for teachers. [2]

- The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020.[3]

Those with individual risks need to be protected rather than depriving the entire community of the benefits of an in-person education. For those at high risk, you have offered the Online Academy as a remote learning opportunity. I ask that you provide an option for the majority of us who want their children to be in school with their teachers. The Hilliard City School District Board of Education is charged with putting students first and I believe you want to achieve the best academic & developmental outcomes for our kids. The best way to do that is to have our kids in school, in person, in front of their teachers, in the safest way possible.

Sincerely,  
Beth Murdoch

[1] COVID-19 Alert System Data Definitions <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/OPHASM/Data-Definitions.pdf>.

[2] Sweden's health agency says open schools did not spur pandemic spread among children  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcoronavirus-sweden-schools-idUSKCN24G2IS>

[3] COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry  
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

.....

**Kimberly Gehring, 6158 Janes Way, Hilliard, OH 43026**

Dear Dr. Marschhausen and Hilliard City School Board,

I am writing as a concerned parent of two Hilliard City School children.

A large majority of parents in the city of Hilliard have chosen the in person learning option for their children. Please consider this when voting tonight. Any parents who do not want to send their children to school in person had the opportunity to enroll in the online academy.

To quote the Lt. Governor of Ohio Jon Husted who said the following today:

" What's the greater risk to people under age 25, canceling in-person learning & extracurriculars (sports) to protect them from COVID or leaving it to chance how they'll fill this time? You can't take these things away from young people & expect good(health, academic, life) results"

Thank you

.....

**Amanda Cecil, 888 Canoe Lane, Galloway, OH 43119**

Hello,

I am very concerned about the level of education my 2 children will receive considering we are a two, out of the home, working parent household. My kids will be at a babysitters house when expected to be on a 2 hour zoom where attendance will be taken. My biggest concern is that the sitter has children from newborn to 10 years old, how is she going to be able to get all the kids on their zooms and make sure they do their work? How can we as parents expect her to do this while also taking care of other children? When I get home from work at 6pm I still have to make dinner, eat dinner, clean up from dinner, and get the kids bathed, when is there time for school work? I feel like this concern has been swept under the rug. I have asked the question "what are the schools prepared to do when kids of working parents aren't on their zooms or cant get all their work done?" And every time the question is dismissed. Why are you dancing around this topic. My children deserve the same education as the children that have parents that stay home and can give their undivided attention. My children don't deserve to be swept under the rug just because we both are essential workers and work outside of the home!

Amanda Cecil

---

**Jessica Bosak, 2884 Phoenix Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43026**

Dr Marschhausen, Board President Abate and members of the board,

My name is Jessica Bosak and I have two children who attend Hilliard Crossing Elementary. Emma is in 2nd grade and Sophie is in 4th grade. Emma is a generally healthy child but like many kids she seems to bring home every illness that runs through the school. Sophie has a compromised immune system and asthma. My husband has Crohns Disease which has forced him to take medication which suppresses his immune system.

An educator friend spent two months in the hospital battling Covid-19, was twice on a ventilator and while she is now home, she has lingering health problems. Another friend struggled for 6 weeks but was able to remain at home. She also has lingering health effects from this virus. After more than 45 days in the hospital, my uncle's brother sadly lost his battle with this virus.

I say all this to put into perspective the actually human cost of this virus. We often talk in percentages and then use low percentages to justify our behavior. What really those percentages allow us to ignore is that each person lost or suffering is someone who is loved.

When community members demand the reopening of schools for in-person learning, I understand it is coming from a place of love and concern for their child. As this nation has seen, our schools provide far more than just education. But we are still heavily in the midst of a health pandemic. Arguing for children to be physically in school ignores the very real health risks this poses to the adults in the building, their families, the students, and student families.

We are seeing schools open around the country. Some are in communities which have relative control of this virus, others are not. In Arizona, one school district just suffered the devastating death of a teacher.

She and her colleagues were preparing for the new year of teaching. While they took every precaution, this virus still invaded their lives.

As community leaders dedicated to the advancement of children, I urge you to continue listening to the best advice from the nations leading health experts. You all have been forced to make decisions these last 5 months that are harder than many of us can manage. You have led with compassion and a steadfast commitment to our children. There are no great answers. What decisions you are forced to make are driven by the behavior of members of the larger community. We all want children and teachers together learning and creating memories. Health and safety must continue to drive your decisions. Until our larger community is prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to suppress this virus, we can not be in a position to bring children and adults into congregate settings.

I have much respect for what all of you have done and continue to do to ensure our school year kicks off successfully and safely. I hope some day soon we are all able to celebrate the end of this virus and return to some normalcy. Until then, please continue putting health and safety first.

Thank you,  
Jessica Bosak

---

Dear Hilliard Schools,

I would really like to go back to school (halftime) this year. One reason I would like to go back to school this year is both of my parents work all day so my 5th grade brother and I are stuck at home by ourselves. This can be hard at sometimes because I have to do my work, make sure my brother is doing his work, and watch my dog all at the same time. This makes it so that I'm doing work at home from about 10:00-5:00 and if I need help from my parents I have to wait till later than that. A second reason

I would like to go back is because E-learning is way less fun, I learned a lot less, and it was hard. It was less fun because I didn't get to see or talk to my friends. When I would talk to my friends we didn't have anything to talk about because we weren't in school so I just stopped being social. I learned a lot less because it can be harder for teachers to teach online, especially the ones who don't use →

the I pass as much at school. It was a lot harder mainly because your teachers weren't there in person to tell you if you were doing something wrong while working. For example last year there were multiple times where I would spend around 45 minutes on a math sheet and then find out I did the whole thing wrong once it was submitted. In conclusion I would really like to do hybrid for school if it is possible please.

-Drew [REDACTED] (8th grade)



Hi my name is Mara  
[REDACTED] I am in third  
grade ~~third~~ and I go  
to Washington elementary  
I am 8. My thoughts  
why school should be  
open is because we should  
just stay at our tables  
but 6 feet distance and  
maybe we should eat outside  
the teacher should  
also have six feet distance  
and the janitor should be  
careful case they open up →

the ~~germs~~  
~~germs~~  
germs. ~~E~~  
germs

and there  
you have  
it

Hi My Name is Zoe [REDACTED].  
I'm in 4th grade, I go to  
Washington Elementary,  
And I am 9 years old. Today I  
am sharing my opinion about  
going to school. I Miss my friends  
and seeing my teachers. I think  
I would get a good Education. But I  
do not think we should have specials  
because when your at music you touch  
things A LOT of things. Same  
with gym and Art. We could do  
Recess to just not on the play ground.

Hi, I'm Abby [REDACTED] I'm 12 and I'm going to be a  
7th grader at weaver middle school. Due to the  
pandemic there are certain rules we have to  
follow, but I believe that we should still go to school.  
Personally it's harder for me to learn on  
elearning, because it's more distracting.  
Thanks!

Hi, my name is Anna [REDACTED] I am 12 years old and I'm going to be in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Hilliard Weaver. Although life has been difficult lately I believe we need to be in School Physically. I've never been a big fan of School until my 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. But when it got interrupted by Learning I lost my interest. Learning was a hassle and not fun. Not interacting with teachers, staff, and friends are affecting us just as much as covid is. We need School as well as Sports. I play basketball and this will be my first year participating in Volleyball and I would be devastated if I missed the season. I did not learn as much as I could on Learning and certainly not in a way that I liked. We have so many different kids needs to fulfill and it won't be as easy and as effective online. School needs to happen.

---

Hello my name is Sarah [REDACTED] and I am 13. I really need to go back to School. I miss my friends and it affects my mental health. I think we should go because learning is really hard for me because I can't focus. Thank you!

---

Hi i'm Dillon [REDACTED] I am 1:3  
and I live on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and I want to go back  
to school and play sports  
this school year.

---

~~Hi~~ my Name is  
AMI [REDACTED]  
I will be in  
2<sup>nd</sup> grad. I go to  
Washington. and I want  
to go to school to  
see my teacher.

---

Hello,  
my name is Elizabeth [REDACTED] and I am going to be a junior this year at Hilliard Davidson. I think this year it is really important to try our best to achieve social interaction everyday at school. I know me and many of my peers agree with me when ~~they~~ I say I really want to go to school this year with my friends and teachers. It would really help the students learning and mental health, not to mention some students use school/school sports as an escape from their home life. Although we understand the severity of COVID-19, WE WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!!  
-a girls varsity soccer player [REDACTED]

Dear School board, I am Anthony [REDACTED] and here is the reason why I want to go to ~~the~~ school  
I want to go to school because I want to see my friends and I learn faster and better while I'm in a classroom and it's so fun to play outside and eat lunch with my friends and sometimes I get lonely at my house.

Sincerely, Anthony [REDACTED]



Dear Superintendent, my name is Rowan [REDACTED] I'm an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Weaver, I really miss school and I would love to have it back. Please give us the school learning back. I miss my friends and teachers so much. I get lonely at home.

Sincerely,

Rowan [REDACTED]

---

Hello, my name is Sam [REDACTED] and I am an upcoming junior at Davidson. I think we should try our absolute hardest to get our students into classrooms. Me and many of my friends will tell you that quarantine had a very negative effect on our mental health. Seeing friends, teachers, and playing sports is what gets kids through everyday life and taking that away will do more damage than COVID will. Although COVID is dangerous, it's practically harmless to kids.

WE WANT SCHOOL  
BACK!!

Sports I play:  
Soccer  
Basketball



Dear Hilliard,

I want to go back to school because  
School is fun and Learning is never fun.  
I miss my friends and my teacher. My parents  
work all day so they can only help me  
at night time. I need help with my J.E.P.  
so that I can catch up.

thank you mason [REDACTED]  
(5th grade)

To Hilliard City Schools,

We should go back to school  
not only for the benefit of the  
students but for the teachers  
as well. Being in person at school,  
learning makes it so much easier  
to learn. Online learning is hard  
to learn from, if you have a  
question you would have to email  
the teacher then wait for a  
response. Going back to school would  
be so much better for our education.  
This is why we should go back  
to school.

Roman [REDACTED]  
8th grade

Hi I'm Tyler [REDACTED] I am 12  
years old I think That we should  
do hybrid

---

**E CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board of Education approved item E1 through E2, consisting of certified and classified personnel matters. You can find the complete list of personnel matters as an attachment to the *Minutes*.

Dr. Marschhausen noted several teachers have requested (due to COVID-19) and been granted a leave of absence for the 2020-2021 school year. We have also had a few teachers decide that now is the best time to retire. We thank them for their service. We are sorry this is how they have to retire, but we understand and wish them well.

**F ACTION AGENDA**

**F1** The Board of Education approved and affirmed the following components of the district's Responsible Restart Plan including:

1. The Hilliard Schools will align the district's instructional modes (All-In, Hybrid, and eLearning 2.0) with the Ohio Department of Health Risk Levels as presented in the district's Updated Responsible Restart Hilliard Plan. Yellow – All-In, Orange – Hybrid, Red & Purple – eLearning 2.0. Movement to Hybrid instruction is contingent upon submission of a plan and approval by in collaboration with Franklin County Public Health or changes in FCPH recommendation regarding face-to-face instruction.
2. Authorize the Superintendent to change movement between instructional modes and procedures related to safety consistent with orders and recommendations issued by Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in response to the COVID-19 crisis with notification to the Board of Education and Community as additional guidance becomes available. Any changes that deviate from FCPH and/or ODH recommendations must be approved by the Board of Education prior to implementation.
3. Notify the Board of Education and Community of any changes in the instructional mode at least three (3) calendar days prior to changing the school calendar unless shorter time period is necessary to be consistent with orders and guidance issued by FCPH and/or ODH in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
4. Updates to the Board at each Business Meeting and Work Session on the data being used, student and staff attendance, and measurements of progress.



5. For the purpose of starting school this year, if Franklin County is still in Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Risk Level III (RED), and/or without written permission from Franklin County Public Health to operate in Hybrid, at noon on Monday, August 17, 2020, the district will operate in eLearning the Week of August 24-28, 2020.

Dr. Marschhausen explained that the plan approved by the Board states our instructional mode (All-In, Hybrid, eLearning 2.0) will be determined by the Franklin County risk level announced the Thursday before school starts. This would have us waiting until August 20<sup>th</sup> to decide on how we will start school on August 24. Waiting until August 20<sup>th</sup> to decide on how we start would be stressful for everyone – parents, students, teachers, and staff. Therefore, Dr. Marschhausen added #5 (above) to the Restart Plan so that on Monday, August 17, 2020, everyone will know our instructional model for the first week of school. Following the first week of school, it will then be possible to change our instructional mode with the county risk level announced on Thursdays.

We are ready for the start of the school year. We started iPad distribution to seniors today. Thank you to Mr. Boettner, Mr. Pohlman, all of our technology department, and all of our building level staff. We will distribute all of our iPads this week. If anyone has any issues or challenges with their iPad, they can get help before school starts.

We are working with Eric Farnbauch to create a ten segment video series for all of our students on what to expect when we go back to school. We will cover all aspects of the proper way to wear a mask to how lunch will be served in the cafeteria. We are very concerned, like most parents, that we are not able to have open houses, paw days, walking the buildings, etc. We will include all of the information gathered at these events in our video series. Also included is information for parents on how to help when we are in eLearning 2.0 and Hybrid.

We know education is essential. We are asking everyone to bear with us as we work to get students back into school as soon as it is safe.

Mr. Lambert read his prepared remarks:

None of us expected that during our term on the school board that we would have to deal with a pandemic. I am not afraid of making important decisions. I made a career of doing just that. But that was in a domain where I was a subject-matter expert, and more importantly, worked with a team that had a depth of knowledge far beyond mine. Not so here. Other than Lisa, none of us are healthcare professionals. So as one who relies on data to inform decisions, I seek the advice of those who are in public health and healthcare professionals who have examined the data and come to scientific conclusions. The trouble is there is no unanimity amount the experts, and some of that is understandable. The science about this virus is continually developing, and much of what we hear are hypotheses, not peer-reviewed, time validated conclusions. Because of the wide range of investigations going on, it is possible to find premises to support any position one wants to take. This is evidenced by all of the emails we have received, many including links to reports which the sender believes settles the question in a way that supports any action they want us to take. In the end, it is really a risk decision each of us needs to make. I'm appreciative that we have created the Online Academy to engage the parents, teachers, and staff in this risk decision. If parents don't want their kids in the buildings with others, and teachers and staff who are concerned about their own and their families' welfare, they can request to participate in the Online Academy. This can substantially

mitigate most of the risks they perceive. And, I have to assume the vast majority of parents who want kids in the classrooms have made that selection by not enrolling in the Online Academy, and are willing to assume the incumbent risks of that choice.

A resolution of July 27, 2020, directs the superintendent to align our instructional mode with the risk level determined by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) with Level I meaning All-In, Level II meaning Hybrid, and Levels III & IV meaning eLearning 2.0. Franklin County is currently at Level III, and if it stays at that level, then by this resolution, we will start the year in eLearning 2.0. Franklin County Health Commissioner Mazzola has recently clarified his position that he has not issued any orders, only recommendations. We are free as the local school board to choose our mode of operation. Because we have given parents the option of Online Academy and even reopened the window for selecting this option, I would like to see us honor the implied wishes of the rest of the parents and start the students and teachers in classrooms on the Hybrid schedule. Therefore, I recommend a change to this resolution to align both Levels II and III with the Hybrid instruction mode. Then, hopefully, at some point soon, when the CATS information becomes useful for operational decision-making, we can switch the triggers based on that data.

Ms. Whiting thanked Mr. Lambert for his comments and stated she agreed with most of what you are saying. We all want to have kids back in school. I have given this so much thought. I've read of all of the parent comments, I've studied the data coming from the health department, the many variations of our restart program, and I believe it is prudent to start as stated in the above resolution. This virus takes different turns every day, every week, and this will allow us another week to gather data and be able to make decisions for individual school buildings. I believe this will be a way to get students safely back to school. I think we need to consider the overwhelming data that is happening across the country as schools start to reopen. I respectfully disagree that we begin in Hybrid unless the County alert level goes down to Level II by August 17.

Mr. Perry agreed with Ms. Whiting on her assessment. We want to give our kids the best possible opportunity to get back into school. When we have the CATS system up, the data may allow us to go into our own personal "orange" level even if the county is still "red." I think we should press pause, something we advocate for, and make a decision when we have the appropriate data. Following the resolution, as written above, may be the best way to begin. Not that Paul is wrong in his intentions. I just think we need to wait a week or two for data from CATS.

Mr. Lambert said that we do have data by zip codes. This information does not have any of our zip codes, showing a high rate of new infections. I believe the data supports that the rate of new infections is not the same in our district as it is in the County. Also, I go back to parent's choice of not enrolling in the Online Academy means they are saying please get our kids back into school as soon as you can. I believe the data supports this, and we have that option available to us.

Mr. Abate agrees there's a lot of turmoil and the need for consistency for knowing what's happening. I believe it's important to decide on an instructional mode before August 20. Our parents, students, teachers, and staff need to know how we are opening.

Mr. Lambert made a motion to amend F1, item 1 as follows and delete item 5:

The Hilliard Schools will align the district's instructional modes (All-In, Hybrid, and eLearning 2.0) with the Ohio Department of Health Risk Levels as presented in the district's Updated Responsible Restart Hilliard Plan. Yellow – All In, Orange & Red – Hybrid, Purple – eLearning 2.0.

Mr. Perry seconded the motion.

The motion failed with one ye and four nays.

Now we are back to the original resolution. Mr. Abate asked if the last sentence in item 1 is something we should remove so that we could start in any instructional mode without the approval of FCPH. There was a great deal of discussion on whether the Board would want to make a change without approval from FCPH. FCPH has not issued any orders, but they do have the authority to order us to close the school. They recommend we don't have face-to-face instruction at this time.

Ms. Whiting motioned to revise the last sentence in item 1 to:

Movement to Hybrid instruction is contingent upon submission of a plan in collaboration with Franklin County Public Health.

Mr. Perry seconded the motion.

The motion passed with five yeas.

The Board then approved F1 as amended with five yeas.

- F2 The Board of Education approved the resolution to consider Athletic and Extracurricular Recommendations per ODH & OHSAA Orders and Guidance.

HILLIARD CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION  
August 10, 2020

WHEREAS, the Hilliard City School District Board of Education believes it is important to offer to its students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities to the extent that such activities are not prohibited by federal, state, or local laws or public health orders;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that participating in such activities serves to develop the whole child, including benefitting child development, social and emotional skills, physical health, perseverance, team-work, and countless other benefits important to our student population;

WHEREAS, the Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) issued an Order on August 1, 2020 authorizing all sports to resume under the requirements and conditions set forth in the Order;

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Public Health Department has the authority to close any school and prohibit any public gatherings when necessary during times of epidemic or dangerous communicable disease under R.C. 3707.26 and has not done so with regard to athletics or extracurricular activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hilliard City School District Board of Education hereby sets forth its intention to permit athletics and extracurricular activities to continue to resume within the District, now and retroactively as applied through the summer of 2020, so long as safety precautions set forth by ODH and OHSAA are followed and under the express understanding that participation in OHSAA Athletics, Cheerleading, and Marching Band for the 2020-2021 school year is strictly voluntary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to comply with all Ohio Department of Health and Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines and orders specific to athletics and extracurricular activities as well as any Franklin County Public Health orders that may be issued;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to immediately suspend athletics and/or extracurricular activities if so ordered by Franklin County Public Health or the Ohio Department of Health.

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for any student that participates in athletics or extracurricular activities, a Liability Waiver and Acknowledgment of Risk form must be signed through Final Forms on the District's website, and fully/continuously complied with prior to and during any student participation being permitted.

Discussion: FCPH has recommended that we don't do sports, but if we do have sports, we have athletes in pods. If we do sports and don't keep athletes in pods, we need to follow ODH & OHSA guidelines. The ODH interim director issued an order that says you can do sports as long as you follow the ODH Responsible Restart Plans.

Dr. Marschhausen stated the district would have no liability risk if we decide to cancel sports. If we choose that our contact sports will operate only in PODS, there is more risk than if we do nothing, but there is less risk than if we let them practice as teams. If we follow the ODH guidelines, we are at a little more risk. We need to decide how much risk we are willing to take as a district. Dr. Marschhausen believes there is a social-emotional risk to consider, as well. He believes there is a higher risk for social-emotional issues if we do not have sports. If we operate in pods, there is some risk and less risk if we follow the ODH guidelines. Under all risk levels, we will follow the same protocols of potential and confirmed COVID-19 cases, including exclusion and quarantine, when necessary.

If we get to Wednesday this week, we will have had no positive cases in athletics for four weeks. Our coaches and our athletes are acting responsibly. Athletics are voluntary, and parents will be required to sign a waiver developed by our legal counsel indemnifying the district.

Mr. Abate commented that this issue is a struggle for him even though his daughter is an athlete. While understanding the benefit of athletic participation, he also recognizes the hypocrisy of allowing sports while not bringing students back into the buildings. In making his decision regarding athletic participation, he considered the following factors – participation is voluntary, being outside instead of a small confined space, and the social-emotional mental health benefits.

Mr. Lambert commented that if we don't provide structured, supervised activities, students will gather together anyway (as we see now around the community). If we can provide a safe, directed way for students to gather, then we should do it.

F3 The Board of Education adopted the following policies:

- a. AFC-1 (Also GCN-1) – Evaluation of Certified Staff – Teachers
- b. EBEA – Use of Face Coverings **(New Policy) Revised from first reading to align with new health department order announced Tuesday, August 4, 2020.**
- c. EGAC-E – Telephone Services

Mr. Perry suggested amending policy EBEA – Use of Face Coverings (page 2) that currently reads: *“(1) Students may be exempted from this policy due to documented medical, developmental, behavioral or individualized needs. Requests for exemptions should be in writing and directed to the school nurse. Face shields may be considered as an alternative.”*

Mr. Perry motioned to replace the last sentence with the following: *“Should an approved exemption to a traditional cloth facial covering apply, face shields shall be worn as an alternative, unless the use of a face shield is included in the original or subsequent exemptions.”*

The motion was further amended to include revising the language in #7 on page from: “(7) Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin shall be considered as an alternative where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process.” – Revised sentence: *“Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin shall be the alternative, unless the use of a face shield is included in the original or subsequent exemptions, where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process.”*

Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. The amendment passed with five yeas. The Board then approved item F3 as amended.

- F4 The Board of Education authorized the Director of Business to adopt non-pricing of Reduced Lunches for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Wilson stated our food service director was looking for a way to reduce the amount of change flowing through the line. In his research, he found that we have the option of setting the price of a reduced-lunch to zero. So the cost of a lunch for anyone approved for free or reduced price lunch for this school year would be free. The cost to make this change is approximately \$2,500. We will look at this cost again next school year.

Mr. Perry commented that in looking at all of the ways to limit the exchange of money in the lunch line, it was noted that there is a fee for the pre-payment option offered by Aramark. Has there been any discussion or decision about waiving this fee? How much would this fee cost the district if we were to assume that cost? Mr. Wilson stated that it would cost approximately \$50,000.

- F5 The Board of Education approved the revised addition to district handbooks for the 2020-2021 school year.

The revision brings the handbook in line with the mask requirement ordered by the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health.

Mr. Lambert asked if the change to Policy EBEA would also need to be made to the handbook. Dr. Marschhausen stated that we will make sure the handbook matches the policy.

- F6 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the deadline for filing proofs of claim in the bankruptcy cases of *In Re Purdue Pharma, L.P., et al.*, Case No. 19023649 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D. N.Y.) (the “Purdue Bankruptcy Cases” and “Bankruptcy Court”) for school districts was July 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time) (the “Bar Date”); and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of the School District (the “Treasurer”) had determined that the School District has a claim against Purdue Pharma, L.P. or its affiliated debtors (collectively, “Purdue”); and

WHEREAS, based upon the limited information now available, the Treasurer determined that that the most effective way to assert a claim in connection with the Purdue Bankruptcy Cases was through an individual proof of claim; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2020, the Treasurer authorized Bricker & Eckler LLP to file a proof of claim on behalf of the School District, which proof of claim was filed on July 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this Board has determined to ratify the actions of the Treasurer with respect to the Purdue proof of claim;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1: The filing of an individual proof of claim in connection with the Purdue Bankruptcy Cases is hereby ratified.

SECTION 2: The engagement of the law firm of Bricker & Eckler to represent the School District in connection with those cases is hereby ratified.

SECTION 3: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Discussion: Mr. Wilson explained that this resolution allows us to remain at the table while they are negotiating the new bankruptcy for Purdue Pharma (the opiate crisis). Mr. Lambert asked if we had a consultant determine an estimated share understanding we might not see much if any of that. Mr. Wilson replied yes. The total claim estimate was over \$29 million but he doesn't expect to receive anywhere near that amount. He believes we may receive \$50,000 - \$100,000.

## **G    REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM**

### **G1    Committee Reports**

Mrs. Long sent OSBA's link to the legislative update. Just reminding you that resource is available to keep us updated on what is happening.

Mr. Abate was contacted by Representative Russo's office to take part in a panel about school restart plans later this week. I'll keep you informed.

### **G2    Superintendent's Update**

#### **1)    Staffing for Online Academy and Impact on District Staff**

The Online Academy that we have built and continue to grow is exceptional. This has been a much bigger undertaking than any of us imagined. We had 1500 elementary students sign up for HOLA. That is the size of three of our elementary schools totaling 63 sections in grades kindergarten through fifth. Due to the building attendance areas, we were only able to eliminate 50 sections. As part of this process, we had to involuntarily transfer over 50 teachers. We've had to change a lot of our programs. As I told our staff in a message today, these changes are temporary. This is the right thing to do to keep our teachers and students healthy and safe.

Mrs. Clark added that we have accommodated all of the teachers who requested to be moved to online teaching due to a personal or family member's health concerns. Some of these teachers will be working from home due to their specific health need.

Some of the other highlights of the Online Academy:

- Condensed and eliminated sections in all grade levels (kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup>)
- 140 teachers joined the Online Academy – in addition to the 13 teachers who were already online teachers
- Elementary positions eliminated: 14 literacy and math coaches, 7 elementary media specialists, and ed tech coach position
- Middle Level changes include: adjusted master schedules to fill positions lost to the Online Academy, dissolved one team of teachers at both Station and Tharp, some secondary staff will teach both face-to-face and online
- High School Level changes include: eliminated sports medicine mentorships and CBI, and assistant athletic directors will be teaching two periods per day

So you can see we have done a lot of moving and shuffling to accommodate the needs of our families who have signed up for the Online Academy. We are adding only 12 (sign and resign) new staff members in this process. Sign and resign means these staff members have a one-year only contract.

Mr. Lambert asked that when all of this is over...when we are back to normal, will all of the staff who have been transferred be moved back to the position held before the need for all of these changes. Dr. Marschhausen responded that we will do our best but can't promise we will be able to get everyone back to where they were before.

Mrs. Clark thanked all of the building administrators and curriculum directors for all of their work to get this done.

Keep in mind, we have asked parents for only a half-year commitment for the Online Academy. Sometime in November, we will be asking for their commitment for the second half of the school year. Some of them may choose to leave the online program. In that case, we will be moving staff again to accommodate those requests.

## 2) Desk dividers, masks, and PPE supplies

Dr. Marschhausen thanked Mr. Hetzel and Mr. McDonough for all of their work on getting these supplies. Mr. Hetzel is going to pick up an additional supply of dividers tomorrow. We will have dividers for all student and teacher desks. The Operation's team is building the dividers for the cafeteria tables. Our cleaning supplies and masks are here.

## 3) Mental Health Days – Excused absence

There is a stigma about not being okay. We know some of our students struggle mentally and become more isolated. Recognizing that there may be times a mental health is important for our students, a parent will be able to report their child as needing a mental health day and will be an excused absence. This is part of our response to the social-emotional needs of our students.

**H EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT**

- H1 The Board of Education entered into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(8) to discuss the purchase or sale of a public property at 9:01 p.m. The Board will not take any action following executive session.