

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Monday, November 2, 2020
Agenda #36

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:34 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Monday, November 2, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-331 - Administration
(October 127, 2020)

Student Forum

To consider feedback from students on remote learning and present 2 new remote phases.

Mayor Petty opened the meeting by stating that the pandemic has created many challenges and this meeting was being held in order to have students engage in a discussion regarding their experiences with remote learning and also to ask questions about the transition plan.

Superintendent Binienda presented the Worcester Public Schools' Transition From Remote to Hybrid Learning Proposal. She explained to the students that the plan has many moving parts and that the dates presented may change. Building readiness and the ever changing number of cases of COVID-19 will all be deciding factors.

Mayor Petty allowed questions and comments from the students which were as follows:

Questions

1. If I am on an IEP, will I be going back earlier?
2. When will I be informed of my starting date?
3. Will my guidance counselor stay in touch with me through this process?
4. What will happen if I contract COVID-19?
5. I am in ETA at Doherty, will I be returning to school on the same day every week?

6. How will the one day a week be assigned?
7. Am I going to retain my same teacher when I go back?
8. What safety measures are in place at Doherty?
9. What if I originally chose remote learning, am I allowed to now opt for hybrid learning?
10. What day do I begin class if I am in the 6th grade?
11. What will my transportation entail if I will be going to another building?
12. What will shop class be like at WTHS?
13. Are sports being rescheduled?
14. Will teachers be receiving more remote training?
15. Will I be having the same schedule in person as I have remotely?
16. Will I be taking MCAS this year?
17. Is there a deadline for making the decision to stay remote?
18. Will the classrooms and schools be safe?
19. Can a teacher do remote and in person teaching at the same time?
20. What is the protocol if a student feels sick?
21. How do I know which group I am in?
22. What is the start date for elementary school?
23. What will my day look like when I go back in regard to lunch, recess and breaks?
24. Is this the final model or will there be modifications?
25. How will I be able to socialize with my friends once we are back in school?
26. Will there be assigned seating on the bus?
27. What if the rules are not followed on the bus?
28. What about snow days?
29. How will classes be taught with 50 orchestral students?
30. When does Tatnuck Magnet start?
31. How can I add classes to my remote learning?
32. What about my siblings? Will we be going on the same day of the week?
33. How will my non-ETA classes work at Doherty?
34. Can I use my own laptop when I go back?
35. Are we going to be able to use our lockers?
36. What will the cafeteria environment be like?
37. What should I do if a classmate exhibits signs of COVID?

Comments

1. I am very happy with how the remote learning phase is going, but I have encountered power issues.
2. I feel safer at home but miss my friends.
3. I am looking forward to going back even if it is only for one day.
4. I find it hard to focus at times.
5. The 70 minute classes are too long.
6. It's hard to find a safe place in the community to go and study.
7. My connections with my guidance counselor have been going well.
8. I'm worried about getting sick when I have to go back.
9. My screen locks up a lot and I have to reboot.
10. I am grateful to be able to do remote learning.

Superintendent Binienda thanked the students and parents for their respectful questions and comments.

Mayor Petty thanked the School Committee for their hard work during this process.

On a roll call of 7-0, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.
Clerk of the School Committee