

The Board of Education of the Borough of Fair Lawn, 37-01 Fair Lawn Ave., Fair Lawn, New Jersey, held a **Education Committee Meeting** via Zoom on **July 23, 2020**.

NOTE: Be advised that the Board may recess into executive session at any time during the meeting.

1. The Education Committee Meeting of **July 23, 2020** was called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

2. **Roll Call**

BOARD MEMBERS	Mr. Banta	Dr. Cohen	Mrs. Frenkel	Mr. Itkin	Ms. Quackenbush	Mr. Rosenberg	Mr. Santana	Mr. Spindel	Mr. Barbarulo
PRESENT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABSENT									

OTHERS PRESENT	Mr. Norcia <i>Superintendent</i>	Dr. Lacatena <i>Asst. Super. Education</i>	Mrs. DeFranco <i>Asst. Super. Student Services</i>	Mrs. Panagia <i>Director, HR</i>	Ms. Bartley <i>BA/Bd. Sec'y</i>	Ms. Ratcliffe-Lee <i>Asst. BA</i>	Mrs. Wellinghorst <i>Communications</i>	Mr. Green <i>Board Att'y</i>	Mr. Gorski <i>H.S. Principal</i>
PRESENT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABSENT									

3. **Sunshine Statement**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Fair Lawn Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof distributed to the persons on the approved list, posted in the Board of Education Administrative Office and sent to The Bergen Record and The Star Ledger.

The announcement/posting for the **Education Meeting** along with the date, place, and time thereof, was distributed on **July 20, 2020**.

The items to be discussed during the Closed Work Session (if needed), of the **July 20, 2020 Education Meeting** may include personnel matters, student matters, legal matters, negotiations, and/or grievances, and tactics and techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property. The results of these discussions will be made public as soon as possible.

4. **Flag Salute**

Motion By Mr. Santana Seconded By Mr. Itkin to extend the number of minutes allowed for each board member to speak beyond the 5 minute 3 minute board member speaking practice.

BOARD MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	RESOLUTION #
Mr. Banta		X		
Dr. Cohen		X		
Mrs. Frenkel		X		
Mr. Itkin	X			
Ms. Quackenbush		X		
Mr. Rosenberg		X		
Mr. Santana	X			
Mr. Spindel	X			
Mr. Barbarulo		X		

5. **Superintendent Report/Comments**

Mr. Norcia and Mr. Gorski made the Re-opening Plan Presentation.

Board Comments on any Agenda Items

Board Members commented on and posed questions about the Re-opening Plan Presentation.

Public Comments on any Agenda Items

Attached

Upcoming Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 30, 2020	Re-Scheduled Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	Via Zoom
August 27, 2020	Regular Monthly Meeting	7:30 PM	TBD

Motion to Adjourn Education Committee Meeting

Motion By Dr. Cohen **Seconded By** Mr. Banta that the Education Committee Meeting of July 23, 2020 be adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Bartley
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Fair Lawn Public Schools

37-01 Fair Lawn Avenue, Fair Lawn, NJ

(201) 794-5500 x7090

Email: nnorcia@fairlawnschools.org

Nicholas J. Norcia
Superintendent of Schools

FAIR LAWN'S ROAD TO REOPENING SCHOOLS Q & A

Fair Lawn Public Schools presented its proposed Reopen Plan on July 23, 2020. These questions below were asked during the public portion of the meeting. We have provided answers to these questions to help you prepare for the fall reopening.

- 1. With fifth and sixth-grade students moving to the middle school model in 2020-2021 be self-contained in one classroom?**

Yes, they will be self-contained, but may move around time to time depending on the course. We want to vary the course work to uphold the academic rigor found in Fair Lawn Schools. That being said, we are still looking into this model.

- 2. Have you hired a medical doctor or epidemiologist to consult and base decisions in science?**

We have and continue to consult with the district's school doctor, Dr. Shai Shoshani, along with the Bergen County and Fair Lawn Health Departments. We are also following the guidelines established by the CDC and NJDOE.

- 3. Will elementary school students have time to move during the day, or will they be sitting in the same seat and classroom all day?**

They will be self-contained, but will have the opportunity to go outside for gym, art, lunch and recess. There is a possibility to move classrooms outdoors, weather permitting.

- 4. Why wasn't the staff survey sent out first at the beginning of this process to consider their input/concerns about the reopen plan?** The survey will be going out ASAP.

- 5. What kind of masks were purchased for the schools?** Disposable face masks

- 6. Are there any details on your Distance Learning Plan? What will the virtual learning structure look like?**

Our Distance Learning Committee will be providing details shortly for Fair Lawn. Gov. Murphy announced on July 24 that parents have the option to choose all-remote learning for their children for the upcoming school year. Furthermore, Gov. Murphy said students participating in all-remote instruction will receive the same quality of instruction that is provided to any other student.

Fair Lawn Public Schools

7. **If we opt out of in-person learning, would my son be offered virtual OT like last year?**

Yes, if there is an IEP.

8. **Will K-4 be self-contained during the day?**

Yes

9. **Will students be sent home if they have any COVID-related symptoms?**

We will be working with the Bergen County and Fair Lawn Health Departments for guidance.

10. **How much notice will you give staff about their reallocation so that they can prepare? Teaching 3rd grade, for example, is very different from teaching 1st grade, etc.**

We will try to give you as much notice as possible with your assignments. That is also why Superintendent Norcia released a letter to staff on July 18, 2020, with the district's proposed plans.

11. **What will lunch and recess in the elementary schools look like? Will they even have recess?**

Yes, students will have lunch in their classroom and recess. We would like to capitalize on the weather as much as possible by holding lunch and recess outdoors. Working looking into options many options including having one grade per day eat in the lunchroom while social distancing.

12. **Can you please touch upon your involvement with the plan for Special Education children? It is very cold and inconsiderate to simply say we are following CDC guidelines, without taking into consideration the social anxieties and difficulties these students will have with masked teachers or therapists.**

That is not our intention. We are looking at these subgroups and individual needs. Every child's needs will be taken into consideration. We will also be holding a special education listening session for parents.

13. **Will K-4 have physical education, music and art classes? Are those teachers going to be in all those classrooms?**

Yes, K-4 will have physical education, music and art classes.

14. **Since we've learned that there is so much about respiration, I'm concerned that we haven't heard anything about negative pressure and air flow in the classrooms. Once they've been sitting in the rooms for a while, isn't the distance and mask-wearing negligible? Isn't airflow hugely important? How can that be addressed?/Will the**

Fair Lawn Public Schools

filtration be upgraded in the window air conditioners to help with air quality and circulation of fresh air throughout the classroom?

We have been working with an architect and engineers from our Buildings and Grounds and Maintenance Staff since March. The goal is to have fresh air indoors. We are exploring all options and can assure you, we are taking this very seriously and safety is our number one priority.

15. What is the plan/procedure for how sick days/time is handled this year? Assuming we cannot promote students who have full attendance with awards. Being sick or having to miss school for a cold, symptoms, etc. should not be penalized.

We agree with you and awaiting guidance from the NJDOE.

16. We are very displeased with the elimination of busing to kids over 2 miles to TJMS. This is a reduction in services and I would like to understand how our taxes are being re-directed. In addition, this comes at the heels of the 5th grade moving to TJMS. Our understanding was that there would be no reduction in services. If this is a COVID related action, we would like to clearly understand if it is only a 1-year pause.

First, we are following the statute. Secondly, we don't have the buses to transport all students and socially distance. Therefore, we are going to use those routes for our Special Education students.

17. Can desk shields be made available for special education students that have health or behavioral needs that would preclude wearing a mask?

Yes, we are looking into it.

18. Will middle school students be permitted to carry a backpack since locker use is prohibited during the day?

Yes

19. Why are you planning to have all Fair Lawn Employees return to work in-person teaching when all of your Board of Education meetings have been held via Zoom?

Beginning in July, we slowly brought back Central Office and school staff on a part-time basis; our goal is to return full-time in the fall.

20. Will you be providing transportation for 7-12 for both the morning and afternoon sessions?

No. Buses will be used for our Student Services students.

21. What are your mask requirements for students?

Fair Lawn Public Schools

Students (except kindergarten) will be required to wear face coverings at all times, unless prohibited from doing so because of a medical condition. To build up their mask tolerance, please find reusable/washable face coverings that your child is comfortable wearing and gradually build up the amount of time they can tolerate wearing them.

22. Will K-4 classrooms be structured as ‘pods’?

Essentially, yes, because they will be together as a class.

23. What do you consider an adequate temperature to send K-4 children outside for recess?

Each building administrator – the principal – will decide.

24. Who is cleaning the schools? What are your plans to sanitize the schools? When and how often will elementary schools be sanitized?

We are bringing on additional custodial staff who will sanitize all buildings in the district in the morning, night and in between classes. We will not be renting out our facilities to outside groups this year. Safety is our number one priority.

25. Will you be testing all staff/teachers for COVID-19 before school reopens?

No, not at this time.

26. What is the plan for ancillary teachers with a part-time schedule for 7-12?

Ancillary teachers may be working with one teacher in the morning and another teacher in the afternoon. This will not be a normal year.

27. Will students be given fresh air breaks after wear masks all day?

Yes

28. Who will monitor bathrooms?

Staff will monitor bathrooms and/or assigned as a duty during their free period.

29. Will you be requiring students/parents to self-screen?

We are currently waiting for guidance from the NJDOE.

30. Why are you requiring students to wear masks if the CDC guideline requires no masks if students are social distanced?

Our number one priority is the safety of our students and staff; masks mitigate the spread of coronavirus.

Fair Lawn Public Schools

31. Why can't teachers switch their own schedules?

Some teachers will be switching their schedules, but many will have to follow their association and collective bargaining agreement.

32. I would like to ask what is the route for kids who live on South Broadway to calculate mileage to school?

All transportation related questions should be directed to the district's Transportation Director, Lori Roccanova at lroccanova@fairlawnschools.org

33. What is your mask and social distancing enforcement policy for students? Who will enforce?

We are currently working on a plan.

34. How will you hold fire and safety drills in the fall?

The NJDOE has given schools a temporary reprieve to not hold them the first few months of school.

35. Will classroom computers be shared?

Classroom computers will not be shared between students during a class. Nonetheless, classroom computers will be cleaned daily and in-between classes for the next round of students. We are also increasing our availability of computer devices for students.

36. Is Distance Learning here to stay?

No, and we can't wait until we can return to a pre-COVID environment.

37. Will you be surveying parents prior to school reopening about their recent travel to states on the Travel Advisory List? We are not sure of what type of self-screening instrument and questions we will be using.

38. Will you be installing desk shields on all desks?

We are considering and currently looking into desk shields.

39. There have been recent outbreaks of COVID-19 at area summer camps. Do you think the district's reopen plan is completely safe? At this time, yes.

40. How far apart will the desks be positioned in each classroom?

Depending on how many students opt out, we could distance desks between 6-7 feet; fifth and sixth-grade desks are currently 5.5 feet apart now.

Fair Lawn Public Schools

41. Have you considered fans in elementary classrooms?

Yes, we will discuss.

42. Will you be implementing standard grading in the 2020-2021 school year as opposed to the pass/fail model that was implemented in March 2020 during remote learning?

Grading will resume during the 2020-2021 school year.

43. Will free/reduced lunch continue during the 2020-2021 school year?

No, during the 2020-2021 academic year, free and reduced lunch will only be for those students who qualify for it.

44. Are air conditioning units going to be used in elementary school classrooms?

Yes. We are going to do everything we can to maximize air flow.

45. How will elementary school students enter/exit the school?

We are looking to utilize classroom doors.

46. How will you acclimate 5th and 6th grade students to their new environment in the middle schools? Coronavirus and the new environment certainly makes this harder?

We may have virtual tours or small group tours.

47. What will happen during this flu season when a child has a fever, has a runny nose, is sneezing and coughing?

Each school nurse will assess a student's symptoms.

48. If school staff performs temperate checks on students, does this violate HIPPA laws?

No

49. Will the schools be providing sanitizers?

Yes, and they will be stationed throughout the district, in all schools and classrooms.

50. My question is in regards to special education children. You've said that they will attend full days in school, and I agree they do need in-person teaching. However, judging how my own son has reacted to masks, I'm sure I speak for most parents of children with special needs when I say: There's no possible way he, or they, will be able to handle masks during a full day of school, much less at all. What is your plan to address that?

Fair Lawn Public Schools

We are recommending that students wear masks (except kindergarten students) while in school unless they have an underlying medical condition. While we understand this may be difficult, please find reusable/washable face coverings that your child is comfortable wearing and gradually build up the amount of time they can tolerate wearing them.

51. Did you publish the results of the parent surveys?

The survey results can be found in the News Section on the district website in the Fair Lawn Road to Reopening PowerPoint presentation that was presented on July 23, 2020.

52. If there are enough students that op out in 7/8, will they be able to stay all day like 5/6?

Anything is possible at this point.

53. Will we get an in-depth model of what the 7/8 day will look?

Yes, it will be coming shortly.

54. Are students going to enter/exit the building at different times? Staggered?

The high school will stagger entry from three different locations: D Wing by back parking lot, A-B wing by patio entrance (front of school by digital sign) and B Wing entrance on Fairclough Place. High school dismissal will be determined by wing. Elementary students will use classroom doors and the middle school will use separate entrances.

55. When will the guidelines for Distance Learning and opting out going to be available for families?

Our Distance Learning Committee is working on the plan now and it will be unveiled shortly.

56. If a high school student/faculty/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, what is being considered as a procedure for everyone they have been in contact with (specifically with regards to self-isolation/quarantine recommendations)?

We will be working with the Bergen County and Fair Lawn Health Departments, along with the district's physician, Dr. Shoshani.

57. How does the 7-12 FLEX program fit in to the model? Is it a hybrid of mainstream and self-contained?

FLEX program will be self-contained.

58. Can students request to stay in a morning or afternoon group only and not rotate?
No

Fair Lawn Public Schools

59. How are you handling Intervention and Reach services for qualified students?

Administrators, subject supervisors and teachers have been working on the curriculum this summer and reviewing critical skills/content taught during the last few months of the 2019-2020 school year and will be integrating them into the 2020-2021 curriculum. Staff is also working on assessments pieces – whether a student is in school or opts out for virtual learning – and will be assessing each child’s individual needs and working that into the 2020-2021 curriculum as well. The goal is to be flexible and fluid.

The process will remain the same for Intervention and Reach. As you may know, we increased the members on the I&R Committee last year. Based on curricular revisions and assessments mentioned above, students in need will work with our I&R staff, whether individually, in groups or in PD.

60. I am in support of a mask requirement. Will they be permitted to remove them at their desks?

No, masks must be worn at all times at school except for kindergarten students who are not required to wear masks and those who have an underlying medical condition.

61. What is the district’s policy for families who opt out and choose virtual instruction or homeschooling and want to return to in-person instruction? What are the procedures and dates for re-enrolling?

Parents can opt their children out at any time; dates for opting back in will be released shortly.

62. Will the middle school students have art and music classes?

Yes

63. Will you permit self-screening? How do you trust parents? Some parents try to trick the system in a normal year and send them to school when they’re sick.

We understand the benefits and disadvantages of both. We are looking at a hybrid model; some students may be screened in school. We are looking at all options.

64. Will Distance Learning by synchronous or asynchronous and how will that work?

Our Distance Learning Committee will be releasing their plan shortly and we will be guided by our distance learning survey that was sent to parents on July 3. Those results: 43 percent in favor of synchronous, 7 percent in favor of asynchronous and 50 percent in favor of a blended model.

65. My name is Dawn Ebner, I am a teacher and the President of the Fair Lawn Education Association. I will start by saying that I know a lot of work has gone into the development of the district plans and am aware that they are preliminary plans

Fair Lawn Public Schools

therefore are fluid. As many of you may know, I would be one of the first in line to express the importance of students being in school physically in front of a teacher. I would also like to thank the district for starting to involve more teachers in the process over this past week; it is imperative that they have a voice in the decision making since they are the ones in the classroom working day to day with the students. With input from more stakeholders, adjusting the proposed plans may be what is required. As the Fair Lawn Education Association president, I need to voice some concerns. The letter to the community sent on July 18th and the presentation this evening indicate that "teachers and the district's union representative" were included during the planning stages. Prior to July 21st our involvement was limited. I don't feel that we were involved in the decisions that have been made. There was one committee which involved teachers at the high school, that has been meeting regularly since the end of June. I understand that several of their suggestions for schedules were rejected. With every question that arises, many of which still remain unanswered, a multitude of additional questions flourish, again without answers. Some of these critical questions need answers. In the letter that was sent to the community on July 18th, it stated that there were 3 minimum guidelines that must be followed for a district's plan. The New Jersey Department of Education, the NJDOE, has provided guidance through a document called "The Road Back" for the Restart and Recovery Plan for Education. In the 104 page NJDOE Road Back document there are 10 critical areas to address. Each critical area has its own list of anticipated minimum standards and there are also additional considerations. For each critical area, there are 2 to 11 sub-criteria for each defined area; over 30 total anticipated minimum standards. For the items that NJDOE has listed as "additional considerations" in each critical area there are between 2 and 14 sub criteria identified. The Fair Lawn Education Association with the assistance of the NJEA will be assessing each of these areas. While I will not get into more specifics this evening, my position, at this time, is that I may not be able to support the Fair Lawn District's proposed plan as I currently understand it. I am concerned about the health and safety of the students, staff members and all of their families. I have consulted with Joe Tondi, our field rep from The New Jersey Education Association, in regards to these concerns. As aforementioned, NJEA will be reviewing the district's plan and giving recommendations.

We disagree and included our district's union representative and involved teachers in our reopen plans and teams. We continue to look for input from teachers.

###