

Melissa Cheung

From: Latifah Jannah <ljannah@montclair.k12.nj.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:20 PM
To: BoardMembers; Jonathan Ponds
Cc: Sean M. Spiller
Subject: Fw: Email Message #5

FYI: My response. Dr. Ponds, please forward to Dr. Morgan re: the the sender's suggestions for remote learning.
Thanks.

From: Latifah Jannah
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 7:15 AM
To: Alex Kolbe
Subject: Re: Email Message #5

Good Afternoon. I hope all is well.

Thank you for your recent email.

The Montclair Board of Education continues to support the Superintendent and the District in a return to in-person instruction that ensures the safety and well being of our staff and students.

The suggestions you have offered to improve remote learning are appreciated. I will forward to our Equity, Curriculum and Instruction Department for review.

Stay safe. Be well.

Latifah Jannah

Board President

From: Alex Kolbe <alexandrakolbe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 9:47:29 AM
To: Jonathan Ponds; Petal Robertson; BoardMembers; sspiller@montclairnjusa.org
Subject: Email Message #5

Good Afternoon-

I'm not sure if this is exactly my 5th email I sent to various people but it might be close.

I am a parent to 4 children in the district. I have 3 in elementary school and 1 in middle school. The fact that my children have not seen the inside of a classroom in almost a year is simply wrong. I have read all the community messages and listened to all the board meetings and the fact remains it is the children who are suffering the most.

The last couple of board meetings have been increasingly difficult to listen to as a member of this community. The constant barrage of parents and teachers complaining, the children who have been propped up to speak about how remote school doesn't work, the lack of faith and trust among all sides - it is just disheartening.

At this point- parents don't trust the district, the superintendent ,the MEA or the mayor. There is no belief that our children will see the inside of a classroom anytime soon. Nor do they feel that it is the goal of this group anytime soon.

I don't need to remind everyone that remote learning is designed as a short time fix to a situation not a long term solution. All parties agree it is neither ideal nor beneficial to the teachers or the students. That students are falling behind and the achievement gap is widening. Nor do I need to point out that every scientific and medical group including the CDC has advocated for in-person learning.

Today, I want to discuss the lack of trust in my community. The reason parents don't trust the district and the MEA is that every decision you have made since deciding to go remote in August 2020 has not considered what this pandemic may look like in the eyes of the children. You have not put their needs first. Here are just a few examples:

1. There has been no chance for the students to meet their teachers in person. This could have been done safely outside in the Fall. There is no safety reason why students could not meet their teachers outside.
2. Utilized the great weather and host weekly meet and greets or drop offs or even classes outside. A time for students to see their teachers and or other students. Kids could be submitting actual work to their teachers.
3. Keeping class assignments together when possible. How comforting it might have been for my 1st grader to see a screen of familiar faces that he had bonded with in Kindergarten as opposed to logging on in September to mostly new faces and names
4. Further, looping classes when possible. This could have benefited the students and the teachers by giving them some continuity and perhaps making it a little easier on everyone.
5. Putting every student on the same schedule. I have 4 kids in 2 schools with 3 start times, 4 snack times and 4 lunch times. They don't even get the benefit of having siblings since they eat lunch by themselves and have nobody to play with. They literally wander around the house or end up on youtube.
6. The entire district could be on the same start time. There is no busing to consider.
7. Keep google meets/zooms open so the students can chat and socialize with each other.
8. Allow the PTA to run social events on school property.
9. Allow the teachers who feel safe to get back to work and want to get back to the classroom to actually go back to work.

These are just a few examples of how Montclair could have made small decisions that would have a huge impact on its students. I'm sure if given the opportunity parents could come up with many more suggestions that could help with remote learning.

Further, since remote learning seems to be Montclair's long term plan, I expect the schedule to change to reflect the inadequacy of the original remote schedule. When first designed, the expectation was that

children would be returning to school shortly. It was designed to be a shorter schedule since there was major concern about screen time. Obviously, this is not a concern of the district or the MEA. Remote learning has become the de facto long term education plan of Montclair. For this reasons- I expect the schedule to change and reflect a traditional school day. The day should be extended at least an hour to reflect when school would normally get out- and you should consider extending it longer to compensate for time missed. For example. My middle schooler missed 60 minutes per subject every 6 days. For classes such as algebra this is necessary time he needs to master these topics. We are not preparing our children for the future.

Finally, Mayor Spiller, let me be clear, you have a conflict of interest. The definition of a conflict of interest is when a party has competing interests because of their duties to more than one organization. As mayor of Montclair, you represent the parents' interest the majority of whom support returning to in person learning in contrast to your role with NJEA who support the teachers staying remotely. The two sides have direct competing interests- your duty as mayor vs your duty to the NJEA. The fact that you can't acknowledge it and at the very least refuse to comment leads to more frustration and distrust.

Please consider what I am saying as well as the numerous other parents. Please consider having input from the parents. Please start making decisions with the students in mind.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Alex Kolbe

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This message has been checked by Montclair Public School's E-Mail Security System and is found to be clean.

Melissa Cheung

From: Sean M. Spiller
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:46 AM
To: Brian Fleischer; Jonathan Ponds; William Hurlock
Subject: Re: The best solution to get the MEA and the kids back into school buildings

Brian,

Thank you for reaching out and for the analysis and thought that you have put into this.

While Dr. Ponds and the district continue to take actions that fall under their purview, the Deputy Mayor and I continue to support our schools in any way we can.

In addition to the funding for learning pods for students that we moved forward with, I was happy to connect Dr. Ponds to the state contacts for district-wide testing. Also, I have had, just had recently last week, and will continue to have meetings and discussions with the Murphy administration to get educators vaccinated. Those conversations I hope are going to make a difference in that area.

I, along with a number of other mayors, also sent a letter to the Murphy administration asking that as the J&J vaccine comes on-line there is a consideration to get educators vaccinated.

So, we all continue to look for ways that we are legally permitted to support our schools and hopefully give everyone the 'space' to work together and get our kids and staff back to safe in-person teaching and learning.

Thanks again and stay well.

Sean M. Spiller

Mayor ✱ Township of Montclair

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www.SeanSpiller.com

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From: Brian Fleischer <brian.fleischer.211@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 8:15 AM

To: Jonathan Ponds <jponds@montclair.k12.nj.us>; Sean M. Spiller <:sspiller@montclairnjusa.org>; William Hurlock <whurlock@montclairnjusa.org>

Subject: The best solution to get the MEA and the kids back into school buildings

Good morning, Dr. Ponds, Mayor Spiller and Councilor Hurlock.

As a PTA leader and a moderator of the Montclair Mommies & Daddies Facebook page, I'm very much privy to the swarm of anger and cross-recriminations among Montclair parents and residents, staff, the union, the Township and the district around the school re-opening dilemma.

As a former BA for the school district, I also see a potential freight train headed for the Board of School Estimate and the Township, based on the apparent MEA position that the "short term" ventilation remediations executed by the district (leveraging air purification systems and natural ventilation where mechanical ventilation is absent or not working effectively) are inadequate to provide a safe workplace. This position is being taken despite that operable PEOSH guidance and regulations clearly allow for natural ventilation solutions - yes, open windows - to be leveraged in workplaces where mechanical ventilation is not in place or is not working properly. But the anti-natural-ventilation position now has significant traction with the staff and with many parents, and as a result we have many stakeholders questioning why and how the district's buildings could have been allowed to reach this state of ventilation disrepair/obsolescence, and how quickly the district can execute the "long term" plan of replacing/repairing/upgrading the HVAC systems in every school, at a potential estimated price tag of \$26 million per the engineer's report.

In other words, depending on what happens at mediation, and based on the current MEA position, there could potentially be huge pressure on the BOE, Board of School Estimates and the Township to approve and issue \$26 million in capital bonds ASAP, close down all the buildings now, bid out and award the work, and open buildings only when those extensive capital projects are complete. And that would likely mean no in-person school not just for the remainder of SY 20-21, but also in SY 21-22 and possibly beyond.

I do support moving with all *reasonable* speed to get the HVAC upgrades approved and done, and I do believe the BOE and BOSE need to increase the annual capital spend materially from where it's been over the past decade. But understanding the priorities of the past decade to reduce and stabilize the Township's debt profile, I'm assuming that you all don't want to approve \$26 million now to upgrade every building simultaneously while putting SY 21-22 at risk.

So what I've also heard, albeit not from any official source, is that there are plenty of vaccines and vaccination slots available up at the old KMart as early as tomorrow, and that vaccination there has been operating smoothly without much hiccup, outside of missed appointments and thus discarded vaccines. At the NJEA level, and now yesterday in South Orange-Maplewood where the union announced it is pulling back out of its school buildings due to ventilation concerns, the stated target for return to school buildings has been vaccinations for staff, rather than completion of capital repairs to HVAC. If Mayor Spiller can work with the Governor, the County Executive, and Dr. Ponds to facilitate speedy vaccination of MEA members (perhaps over the course of the first week of February for the first dose), maybe the MEA would agree to back away from the position that no one should be asked to teach (or learn) in a classroom without working mechanical ventilation and thus reliant on open windows.

Maybe Dr. Ponds and the BOE could offer to give staff members paid release time to get vaccinated, where the staff member shows an appointment card or a vaccination receipt and the students have asynchronous learning for a day or a half-day. And then maybe Mayor Spiller and Dr. Ponds and Ms. Robertson and Mr. DiVincenzo get a nice photo op at the KMart having worked together to ensure that every staff member who wants to be vaccinated could be vaccinated ASAP, thus facilitating an agreement on return to buildings.

I understand and respect the immense pressure you all are under and wish you the very best. Feel free to reach out at any time if I can be a helpful sounding board. [REDACTED]

Best regards,
Brian Fleischer

Melissa Cheung

From: Sean M. Spiller
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 1:40 AM
To: Diane Tehranian; David Cummings; Robert Russo; Jonathan Ponds
Subject: Re: Education and the Covid Task Force

Diane,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts.

I understand your frustration with regard to the district reopening plans, as the very fluid situation seems to have caused understandable changes in direction.

Of course, through the Board of Education and Superintendent, I am sure you and others are conveying your desires for varying forms of communication and decision points with regard to the virus. I am sure the Superintendent can elaborate further, but his indicated use of community spread is being utilized by countless districts throughout the state in their assessment as well (<https://www.nj.com/education/2020/11/more-nj-districts-announce-they-are-switching-to-all-remote-as-covid-19-cases-rise.html>).

That said, specifically within my purview, I have formed the COVID-19 Task Force as you note. I am excited about the diverse group of residents who will be working on suggestions and solutions as we move through this second wave of the pandemic.

However, as required in our form of government, they will not directly be focused on the schools nor offering specific direction to our Board of Education.

With the clear separation of authority, and being mindful not to overstep those boundaries, I am excited that in coordination with Superintendent Ponds, there is a representative from the school administration to interface as we way to share ideas, express challenges, and work to see how we can help in any way. Of course, I have offered support to Dr. Ponds in any way he needs it with regard to our schools since day one.

Should there be any conversations or overlaps that engage on school issues, I am additionally pleased to note that the task force includes parents with students in our schools who are fully aware of current dynamics.

More on point with the type of work that will be looked at are things like the work Councilman Cummings has focused on where we have been able to reach out to the state to try and provide pod-like environments for student learning. Such would be an example of indirect supports we may be able to offer the schools, but the task force will absolutely not be engaging in a conversation about opening or not opening schools. That is a district decision or decision from the Governor.

I will note, that while you feel that advocating for teachers is not advocating for students, I am confident that the Superintendent, the Board of Education, the MEA, my colleagues, most residents,

and certainly I, consider ourselves advocates for everyone that is part of our schools. It is with that charge that we do all we can to support one another during this unprecedented time.

Certainly, I agree that there should be clear communication, that questions need to be answered, etc. While those must come from the district, again I have reached out and offered any assistance that we may be able to offer from the township side in that regard. However, we would never be able to speak for the district and it would likely be problematic for us to try and have a conversation in a space where they are the authority and privy to any of the information need to give appropriate responses.

So, therefore, on top of the work we have been doing on the township side - strong contact tracing, local grant programs for small businesses, parking fee suspensions, direct financial support to Tony's Kitchen and other support services, partnering with the Murphy Administration to do Covid-19 testing in town as well as working with the county for the same, and more - the addition of the Covid-19 Task Force will look to engage even further.

Rest assured, the work continues and I will continue to do all I can support our residents, our community, and our students and schools.

Thanks again for your engagement and activism and stay well.

Sean M. Spiller

Mayor ☀ Township of Montclair

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From: Diane Tehranian <dnoerpel@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 7:36 PM

To: Sean M. Spiller <sspiller@montclairnjusa.org>; David Cummings <DCummings@montclairnjusa.org>; pyacobellis@montclairnjusa.com <pyacobellis@montclairnjusa.com>; Robert Russo <rrusso@montclairnjusa.org>; Jonathan Ponds <jponds@montclair.k12.nj.us>

Subject: Education and the Covid Task Force

Dear Mayor Spiller,

My name is Diane Tehranian and I live in the 4th ward of Montclair. I am a parent with 3 children at Nishuane and Hillside elementary schools and I am writing to express my sincere frustration with the state of our reopening plan here in Montclair. I was especially disappointed to see that your new covid-19 task force designed to help our town recover from this pandemic did not include any advocates for students in the public schools. While I understand and agree that our small business owners need support, I feel as though you have thus far been ignoring our children. While surrounding districts have managed to bring children back to in person learning, we have not. There are many children who are not learning effectively remotely. Some are

falling very far behind and there is no plan that I can see to get them back up to speed. I am also concerned about the children we may be losing who are just not showing up to school each day. Is anyone fighting for them? I would recommend finding a parent and/or child social worker who can act as an advocate for our children and help develop a plan to recover our schools because it is going to be brutal and a long haul. I am personally watching my own children fall further and further behind their peers in other districts and it is heartbreaking. We moved to Montclair for the schools and for the first time in 3 years, I regret our decision.

I will be honest and admit that I did not vote for you because I believed as an employee of the teacher's union, you could not be a neutral party and you would not be an advocate for our children. That is sadly playing out right now. It has been proven over and over that the rate of spread of covid-19 within schools is equal or less than that of community spread. In Europe they have shut everything down EXCEPT schools despite high community spread. That is because they value education and know it can be done safely. I am disgusted that we do not value it in the same way. I recognize that current rates of community spread are high but other school districts and even our own MCPK are still operating safely. As parents we have offered tents for outdoor classrooms and other out of the box solutions. We are fine if that's not what the town wants to do but we cannot stay remote indefinitely. We need to know the criteria for returning to the classroom and it cannot be when rates are 0% or a vaccine comes. It must be reasonable and realistic. This open ended, wait and see approach is clearly not working. All that to say, please do not consider us "in recovery" until our children are not only back in school but there is a comprehensive plan to get them all back up to where they were pre-pandemic academically. We are failing our children. You specifically are failing our children. We need you to do the job you were elected to do and be an advocate for our children and not an advocate of the MEA. I urge you to work with and support Dr. Ponds as he works to get us back in school.

Please be our mayor.

Sincerely,
Diane Tehranian
dnoerpel@hotmail.com
[REDACTED]

Melissa Cheung

From: Robert Russo
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:22 PM
To: Peter Yacobellis; Lori Price Abrams
Cc: Sean M. Spiller
Subject: Fwd: School Reopenings

FYI

Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Thomas <stthomas@mpsdnj.us>
Date: January 20, 2021 at 7:35:33 AM EST
To: Robert Russo <rrusso@montclairnjusa.org>
Subject: Re: School Reopenings

Thank you so much for your kind and prompt response. Enjoy Inauguration Day!

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021, 11:30 PM Robert Russo <rrusso@montclairnjusa.org> wrote:

Ms Thomas, your First Ward Councilmember is Bill Hurlock. I appreciate your message and will talk to the Mayor & my colleagues. I teach at MSU and have a big issue with going into the classrooms that may not be safe.

Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

> On Jan 19, 2021, at 8:35 PM, Susan Thomas <stthomas@mpsdnj.us> wrote:

>

> Hello Mr. Russo and Mr. Yacobellis,

> I am a 23 year resident of Montclair and have been teaching in the Montclair public school system at Renaissance Middle School for the past 15 years. All four of my children have graduated from Montclair High School. I am writing to you as I do not see a council member listed for Ward 1. I would like to ask for your consideration of the Montclair School District's plans to reopen schools beginning next week. Dr. Ponds' previous letters postponing reopening all mention the infection rate makes the return unsafe. At this time, the infection rate has not decreased and with the new variant of the Coronavirus, it is not expected to decrease in the near future. Additionally, walkthroughs of only some of the school buildings with MEA representatives present made clear that the buildings are not safe for a return. I am greatly saddened by the fact that I am unable to teach my students in person, however, I also know that with a shortened school day, mask-wearing while on camera and the inability to have one on one contact with my students will not significantly improve my students' ability to learn either at school or remotely. I urge you to consider the needs and safety of staff and students.

> Sincerely,

> Susan Thomas

> 1 Seneca Place

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This message has been checked by Montclair Public School's E-Mail Security System and is found to be clean.

Melissa Cheung

From: Robert Russo
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:32 PM
To: Diane Tehranian
Cc: Sean M. Spiller; David Cummings; pyacobellis@montclairnjusa.com; Jonathan Ponds
Subject: Re: Education and the Covid Task Force

Dear Diane, I received your message and understand and appreciate your frustration & concerns. As an educator myself, starting as a Fourth grade teacher in Newark, and for the last 35 years teaching at Rutgers University & now at Montclair State University, I want to let you know I will always be an advocate for our students, as well as our parents & teachers.

I served as the treasurer of the Roseville Ave School PTA and as the Newark Teachers Union leader during 2 strikes in the 1970's, when 200 of us were arrested, simply for fighting to get our salaries to start at \$9,000 a year and our class sizes below 30 students. I spent 15 days in jail for my protest of a corrupt Brd of Education & Newark Mayor. I have continued to be a leader in my college teaching career as President of the Montclair State University Adjunct Faculty Union & now as a Vice President for Higher Education with AFTNJ. Our union roles do not impact our ability to serve well and be strong advocates for our children, students and public schools. In fact, they enhance our efforts. There is no conflict with my role as an American Federation of Teachers leader, and I believe Mayor Spiller is an even more committed Mayor promoting our public schools & protecting the interests of our students, precisely because he is a teacher & NJEA leader.

I have also served as Mayor between 2000 to 2004, with many Brd of Ed appointments made over a 4 year period. Once I appointed these volunteer BOE members I did not interfere with their work, nor with the professional management of our schools by the Superintendent they hired. I am sure our new Mayor is as great an advocate for our public schools as I was several years ago, and that our new Superintendent is doing his professional best to get our children safely back in the classrooms as soon as possible.

So I am responding to your concerns & refuting your criticism of Mayor Spiller & myself by assuring you that we are the best possible advocates for our students during this trying time of health & economic crisis. Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss this further.

Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

On Nov 18, 2020, at 7:36 PM, Diane Tehranian <dnoerpel@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Spiller,

My name is Diane Tehranian and I live in the 4th ward of Montclair. I am a parent with 3 children at Nishuane and Hillside elementary schools and I am writing to express my sincere frustration with the state of our reopening plan here in Montclair. I was especially disappointed to see that your new covid-19 task force designed to help our town recover from this pandemic did not include any advocates for students in the public schools. While I understand and agree that our small business owners need support, I feel as though you have thus far been ignoring our children. While surrounding districts have managed to bring children back to in person learning, we have not. There are many children who are not learning effectively

remotely. Some are falling very far behind and there is no plan that I can see to get them back up to speed. I am also concerned about the children we may be losing who are just not showing up to school each day. Is anyone fighting for them? I would recommend finding a parent and/or child social worker who can act as an advocate for our children and help develop a plan to recover our schools because it is going to be brutal and a long haul. I am personally watching my own children fall further and further behind their peers in other districts and it is heartbreaking. We moved to Montclair for the schools and for the first time in 3 years, I regret our decision.

I will be honest and admit that I did not vote for you because I believed as an employee of the teacher's union, you could not be a neutral party and you would not be an advocate for our children. That is sadly playing out right now. It has been proven over and over that the rate of spread of covid-19 within schools is equal or less than that of community spread. In Europe they have shut everything down EXCEPT schools despite high community spread. That is because they value education and know it can be done safely. I am disgusted that we do not value it in the same way. I recognize that current rates of community spread are high but other school districts and even our own MCPK are still operating safely. As parents we have offered tents for outdoor classrooms and other out of the box solutions. We are fine if that's not what the town wants to do but we cannot stay remote indefinitely. We need to know the criteria for returning to the classroom and it cannot be when rates are 0% or a vaccine comes. It must be reasonable and realistic. This open ended, wait and see approach is clearly not working. All that to say, please do not consider us "in recovery" until our children are not only back in school but there is a comprehensive plan to get them all back up to where they were pre-pandemic academically. We are failing our children. You specifically are failing our children. We need you to do the job you were elected to do and be an advocate for our children and not an advocate of the MEA. I urge you to work with and support Dr. Ponds as he works to get us back in school.

Please be our mayor.

Sincerely,
Diane Tehranian
dnoerpel@hotmail.com

[REDACTED]

Melissa Cheung

From: Robert Russo
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 11:01 PM
To: Sean M. Spiller; Lori Price Abrams
Subject: Fwd: Education and the Covid Task Force

FYI

Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

Begin forwarded message:

From: "probertson@meanj.org" <probertson@meanj.org>
Date: November 20, 2020 at 2:32:33 PM EST
To: Robert Russo <russo@montclairnjusa.org>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Education and the Covid Task Force
Reply-To: "probertson@meanj.org" <probertson@meanj.org>

Thank you so much for your strong and thoughtful response. This is difficult for everyone and we are appreciative of yours and the rest of the council's efforts.

On November 20, 2020 1:30 PM Robert Russo <russo@montclairnjusa.org> wrote:

Petal, FYI

Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Russo <russo@montclairnjusa.org>
Date: November 19, 2020 at 12:09:31 PM EST
To: "balbert@meanj.org" <balbert@meanj.org>
Cc: "cpastor@meanj.org" <cpastor@meanj.org>
Subject: Fwd: Education and the Covid Task Force

FYI. My defense of our education unions & educators in local govt leadership.

Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Russo <russo@montclairnjusa.org>
Date: November 18, 2020 at 10:32:19 PM EST

To: Diane Tehranian <dnoerpel@hotmail.com>
Cc: "Sean M. Spiller" <sspiller@montclairnjusa.org>
Subject: Re: Education and the Covid Task Force

Dear Diane, I received your message and understand and appreciate your frustration & concerns. As an educator myself, starting as a Fourth grade teacher in Newark, and for the last 35 years teaching at Rutgers University & now at Montclair State University, I want to let you know I will always be an advocate for our students, as well as our parents & teachers.

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Bob Russo
At-Large Councilmember
Township of Montclair

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the first time in 3 years, I regret our decision.

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school.

Please be our mayor.

Sincerely,
Diane Tehranian
dnoerpel@hotmail.com


Petal Robertson

President

Montclair Education Association

“When I dare to be powerful – to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.” – Audre Lorde

Melissa Cheung

From: probertson@meanj.org
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Jonathan Ponds; Nina De Rosa; Kalisha Morgan; Damen Cooper; Emidio D'Andrea; Thomas Santagato; Felice Harrison-Crawford; Christopher Graber; Betty Strauss; ckondreck; Eileen Gilbert; Erika Pierce; Sean M. Spiller; Jessica de Koninck; Eve Robinson; Robert Edwards; Joseph Maffucci
Subject: Re: Re-opening Update Committee Meeting

Greetings Dr. Ponds,

In response to your email, dated January 19, 2021 at 1:40pm this afternoon. With regards to joining you tomorrow on a walkthrough, we request instead to discuss with you the outstanding issues listed below. Please let us know your earliest available meeting date/time. We completed some walkthroughs last week and will be willing to continue in the future. However, it's important to recognize that our concerns about re-opening are more than just items in a checklist on a walkthrough.

Our biggest concern is why now? Why would we reopen now when numbers are surging, the CDC says we will hit an even bigger surge in March with the new strain of Covid-19. Many districts are remaining remote. And, teachers are up next for the vaccine.

We would like the agenda of our meeting to include the following:

1. Willingness to communicate and work with the association and its members
2. Why will teachers have to remain in buildings after the students have left for the day or in the instance of no students at all?
3. State of the HVAC systems, the documentation we provided over the weekend and a date certain as to when it will all be fixed and we can walk through and observe that it is ready.
4. Work orders outstanding
5. Better information on disinfection practices and products.
6. Nurse's office/isolation spaces
7. Lack of enough PPE, safety equipment, and safe chemical usage
8. Accommodations for staff need to be addressed.
9. Specific meeting dates to negotiate other outstanding issues related to return to in-person instruction.
10. Walkthroughs upon completion of all repair, maintenance, and remediation work

These are our biggest issues, and why we choose not to return to the buildings until our students and staff are safe. The list above is just the tip of the iceberg. Going forward we need transparency and collaboration; our students are too precious a treasure.

Best,
Petal Robertson

President, Montclair Education Association

On January 19, 2021 1:40 PM Jonathan Ponds <jponds@montclair.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Ms. Roberson,

I have been requested to have building walk throughs tomorrow with Senior staff members, MEA leadership and BOE members. Tonight's meeting is cancelled. However, I am willing to have a power 4 meeting as we Sunday evening. Have a wonderful day.

Jonathan

From: probertson@meanj.org <probertson@meanj.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:17:46 AM

To: Nina De Rosa; Jonathan Ponds; Kalisha Morgan; Damen Cooper; Emidio D'Andrea; Thomas Santagato; Felice Harrison-Crawford; Christopher Graber; Betty Strauss; ckondreck; Eileen Gilbert; Erika Pierce; Sean Spiller; Jessica de Koninck; Eve Robinson; Robert Edwards; Joseph Maffucci

Subject: Re: Re-opening Update Committee Meeting

Good morning Nina,

Dr. Ponds indicated that this would be a more in-depth meeting. Can you advise me as to what I should have prepared and/or send me the agenda?

Thanks so much,

On January 14, 2021 11:43 AM Nina De Rosa <nderosa@montclair.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Please be advised that due to an emergent issue, this meeting is being rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 6 pm.

Topic: Re-opening Update Committee Meeting

Time: Jan 14, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mpsdnj.zoom.us/j/84656561925>

Meeting ID: 846 5656 1925

Passcode: 317783

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This message has been checked by Montclair Public School's E-Mail Security System and is found to be clean.

Petal Robertson

President

Montclair Education Association

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