

**Special Board Meeting**  
**October 26, 2020**  
**Chat & Q/A**

Maureen Sweeney 07:12 PM

We just received this evening another notice of a positive case on the secondary campus; would someone please summarize the current active cases in each school building/campus?

- There is now a “tracker” on our website. <http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us/COVID-19.aspx>

Carol Loutzenhiser 07:35 PM

Zoom participants can't hear the questions I

Michael Hetcko 07:46 PM

How are other Allegheny county schools operating full time? These are recommendations not hard rules. Also, the zip code includes portions of NA, North Hills and Quaker Valley.

- Circumstances are different in different districts. Some are not following distancing. Some are not using staff to deliver virtual as we are at Avonworth. Therefore, they have more staff available to distance students across their classrooms. Attendance is also different in other districts. For instance, we have talked with some that have enough students in their virtual program to allow for distancing with the students attending in person.

You should look just at the Avonworth communities. An argument was made that at that macro level, you are not considering travel, etc. That argument is flawed as the people tested are traveling.

Dave Chekan 07:46 PM

Can you reference where the source of truth for the incidence rate and PCR percent positivity rates are posted and tracked? That chart presented is extremely helpful

- The data we have posted comes from:  
<https://mainlinemama.com/pa-covid-19-school-reopening-school-district-zip-code-dashboard/>

Selma Cetin-Ferra 09:03 PM

I would like to ask that parent if one child dies with covid 19 how is she going to feel?

Jennifer Revesz 09:24 PM

:) breathe .... this is not a question.

You all are doing a fabulous job. Don't second guess your decisions. Your leadership and transparency has been incredible! Keep doing what you are doing! Your time and expertise are so appreciated. This too shall pass.

Jennifer Revesz

Anna Marie White 09:57 PM

This is what I was going to say, if I was given the opportunity to speak: Hi! My name is anna marie white , and I'm a primary care doctor for adults and kids. Ohio township First I'd like to thank all our teachers, the board and the administrators for all they're doing in these challenging times. My kids are in 2nd and 4th grade and are doing the hybrid model. I'd also like to echo everyone who has spoken in favor of full-day school for our primary and elementary kids. As a physician, I've been working for months while masked in close proximity to patients, colleagues and staff, all of whom were masked, and we have not had any outbreaks. My most recent antibody test when I donated blood was negative, showing I haven't been exposed or infected to the novel coronavirus. Based on early data, schools do not appear to have played a major role in COVID-19 transmission. New York City mandated precautions for its 1,800 schools, and the virus's prevalence in the city has remained low since its deadly surge in the

Anna Marie White 09:57 PM

spring. Random testing of more than 16,000 staff members and students has turned up only 28 positives and no big outbreaks, apart from localized clusters in two communities. Britain and the Netherlands have kept schools open with few restrictions on class sizes or requirements for mask-wearing. Yet they, too, have shown limited transmission among younger children or from children to their parents, In the US, data 1,006 schools also show low case rates. For both students and staff, participating elementary schools report the lowest case rates of any age level. In an article from Pediatrics: "...the researchers provide early reassurance that school-based transmission could be a manageable problem, and school closures may not have to be a foregone conclusion, particularly for elementary school-aged children who appear to be at the lowest risk of infection," the article said.

I know at least for me, I worry that a hybrid model is worse than full time from an exposure standpoint, as I'm having to piece together.

Anna Marie White 09:57 PM

childcare, and they're being exposed to multiple babysitters who weren't in our circle. Elementary kids aren't able to be home alone, so unless most kids have a stay at home parent, folks are doing something for childcare. Hybrid ultimately INCREASES exposure because the kids are going every which way when not in school, and the teacher is still exposed to all the students. I'd prefer a stable cohort, even if larger, to multiple open loops.

I've had patients who have had to choose between their child's education and working and now are unable to afford food for their families because they so bravely prioritized their child's education. I'm thankful that I'm able to continue to work, but I know there are others who are not able to do so. Children going back full-time will help these families be able to afford basic necessities.

I'm so impressed with how the kids and teachers are doing with masking and truly believe that even if six feet of distancing can't be maintained at all times, as long as everyone i

Anna Marie White 09:58 PM

is masked, our kids will be safe. My only concern is lunch, but if creative ways to use space and staggering of lunch times to allow distancing are used, I believe this is not an insurmountable challenge. I'm happy to further discuss but think that it's best and safe for our children to be back full-time, with the option for virtual for those families interested in that option. Thank you for all you're doing and the opportunity to speak.

Anna Marie White, MD

Anna Marie White 10:01 PM

From jhelsel to All panelists: (6:58 PM)

There is a lot of background noise.

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sound great

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

all good

From jmannion to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

good here

From Beth Roberts to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

good

From Nicole Smith to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

good

From Carrie Amelio to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

It sounds good

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Thanks!

From Dave Chekan to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sound is good

From Catherine Sayles to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

sound is ok

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sounds good

From nicole.hahna@sru.edu to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

it's okay

From Chad Wright to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Who is speaking?

From Krista Staley to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sounds good

From Me to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Thank you.

From Rachel Vaughan to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

all good

From Tammy Bellotti to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

All good here!

From Richard Spahr to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

sound is good

From michael meagher to All panelists: (7:25 PM)

what a mill levy increase to increase revenue?

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (7:33 PM)

Please repeat questions that non-main speakers ask Hard to hear at home. Thanks!

From jhelsel to All panelists: (7:34 PM)

Can't hear audience questions.

From Kristina Stroyne to All panelists: (7:43 PM)

Why is it safe for staff/students at the secondary campus to go back?

- The decision to consider the secondary students returning was made when our area was on the low range in which full, in person instruction can be considered. This is being reevaluated given the current rise in numbers for our area.

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (7:47 PM)

repeat question of person

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (7:47 PM)

We cannot hear the side questions. Thanks!

From Beth Anne Roberts to All panelists: (7:47 PM)

Can someone repeat the questions that people ask? We cannot hear what they are saying! Thank you

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (7:47 PM)  
can't hear question

From Chinar Aphale to All panelists: (7:47 PM)  
can you please repeat the questions

From jhelsel to All panelists: (7:47 PM)  
The speaker should repeat the audience question

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (7:47 PM)  
schools are having multiple cases currently. how does this affect the decision to go to full virtual?  
do all three aspects need to be met?

- One metric to consider is whether or not the District is in the substantial range for incident rate/100K and/or about 10% positivity rate. We also need to consider the conditions within our buildings (positive cases, impact of cases and quarantine on staffing, etc.)

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (7:47 PM)  
please repeat questions from audience

From Melissa Ursu to All panelists: (7:48 PM)  
cannot hear the questions

From Heather Potts to All panelists: (7:48 PM)  
Can you repeat the question, please?

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (7:48 PM)  
We can not hear the questions

From Michael Baker to All panelists: (7:48 PM)  
could someone post the questions? we can not hear the questions

From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (7:48 PM)  
who is asking a question?

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (7:49 PM)  
Can you please repeat the questions for zoom participants? We can't hear them

From Renee Knipp to All panelists: (7:51 PM)  
We can't hear the questions from the audience. Can you please restate the questions? Is their a microphone available for the live audience so the zoom participants can hear?

From John Brandt to All panelists and attendees: (7:55 PM)  
Sorry - the question was whether the numbers of cases and positive tests were different for the adjusted hybrid model for MS/HS. Both the original and adjusted HS/MS Hybrid models are "Blended" models

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (7:55 PM)  
thanks!

From jhelsel to All panelists: (7:55 PM)

Thank you!

From michael meagher to All panelists: (7:55 PM)

I yield my speaking time to another person. I'm satisfied that the district will maintain the virtual model through the 2020-21 school year.

From Dave Chekan to All panelists: (7:56 PM)

Can you reference where the source of truth for the incidence rate and PCR percent positivity rates are posted and tracked? That chart presented is extremely helpful and its difficult to find it very clearly laid out how it was presented here.

- <https://mainlinemama.com/pa-covid-19-school-reopening-school-district-zip-code-dashboard/>
- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dlfvSJgrKJ5RggH9fxt5VG5\\_wLWKfBEaY1IFUTFO Dts/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dlfvSJgrKJ5RggH9fxt5VG5_wLWKfBEaY1IFUTFO Dts/edit?usp=sharing)

From Selma Cetin-Ferra to All panelists: (7:58 PM)

can you repeat the questions please?

From Richard Spahr to All panelists: (8:00 PM)

but how in-depth is this pace. I don't see the rigor or time for understanding

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (8:00 PM)

how about pace of AMS & AHS progression through curriculum?

From Emily Zupancic to All panelists: (8:01 PM)

What asynchronous science and social studies lessons have been provided for K and 3rd grade thus far? Is the 90 minutes in the previous slide daily or weekly?

- 90 minutes is allotted on either side of the day. We are currently evaluating and considering changes to improve this time for students if this model is continued.

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:03 PM)

are those 13 teachers just for virtual? that is essentially 2 per grade shown on this slide

- Yes. Based on the numbers in the virtual program, two teachers are needed at all grades except kindergarten (at this point in time).

From Michael Baker to All panelists: (8:04 PM)

ty

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

this slide indicated 720. I think Cory is correct

- An assumption is being made that all of these students/families will be okay with having class sizes increase to the point that distancing is not possible.

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

bring up the survey that shows 50%+ want to remain I. hybrid in

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

pleas give speakers the microphone.

From Jenna Paulat to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

I agree with Dr Ralston, I don't think there is any evidence to say that the majority of parents want to be in person full time right now.

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

or...you are not asking the correct questions on your survey

From Inzadi9 to All panelists: (8:09 PM)

How would the numbers change for enrollment if we moved from hybrid to full- time in person instruction— specifically enrollment numbers for virtual academy and full- time?

- In the previous survey, it was indicated that 88 students may move from the hybrid to the virtual program if all students returned to school without distancing being possible.

From jodipiacenti to All panelists: (8:14 PM)

Thank you! This is the right choice.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

is it possible to get a mic so those of us at home can hear questions from the audience?

From Melissa Ursu to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

thank you please make sure someone repeats the questions by the community

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

What did he say?

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

Can you please pass mics around to any speakers / questioners? And if board members are speaking (vs someone in audience) could board members state name first? Hard to tell what's happening

From J Galbraith to All panelists: (8:16 PM)

I am a MS/HS parent and I agree with Mrs. Carlson and Mr. Brandt.

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (8:16 PM)

thank you!

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (8:16 PM)

I am a high school parent willing to let them know we are here and I support Vicki Carlson's motion

From Inzadi9 to All panelists: (8:17 PM)

Do you think enrollment in virtual academy would increase? How are you going about finding that out?

- In the previous survey, it was indicated that 88 students may move from the hybrid to the virtual program if all students returned to school without distancing being possible.
- To find this out for sure, we will need to conduct a survey asking for parents/guardians to make a final choice of model for the second quarter. This survey should come out to parents/guardians after the November 2 Board meeting.

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:17 PM)

Thank you

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:18 PM)

and the board just talked for 80minutes and now telling everyone to keep it brief.

From Natalie Taylor to All panelists: (8:18 PM)

I want to thank the board and administration for the incredible amount of work that has gone into planning for this school year. I would like to offer my full support for the hybrid model for APC and AES. I believe that the "vast majority" of parents appreciate the chance to have their kids receive some in person instruction while maintaining safety protocols, especially as cases are rising throughout the county. Please keep up the good work and thank you again.

From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (8:20 PM)

I do not want to speak out loud, but I do want to say Thank You for having this meeting. And thank you for following the data and being aware of the budget. Having the model we have in place allows compromise.

From Kelly to All panelists: (8:22 PM)

I agree with Vicki that we should stick with what's working for now for all schools!

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:23 PM)

other schools are successful in our region. why can't we do it?

From Andrea to All panelists: (8:24 PM)

I'm sorry I have to leave the meeting. I did want to voice my support for the school board's decision to follow the numbers and science. I appreciate your hard work. Thank you.

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (8:25 PM)

it is science! thank you for helping to keep our kids safe. We all want this to be over but it isn't!

From Jennifer Birch to All panelists: (8:26 PM)

I'm at home I am here as Jennifer Birch



From Kristina Stroyne to All panelists: (8:27 PM)

Why can the board make the decision as to what is safe for our children, yet WE can't make that decision for our own families??

From Inzadi9 to All panelists: (8:30 PM)

In terms of spacing and social distancing in cafeteria/recess time, have you considered ideas or staggering the lunch schedule throughout the week that would allow certain classes to eat lunch in cafeteria on a rotation schedule? maybe each classroom might only eat lunch in the cafe twice a week and the other three days in their classroom?

- Yes. Our building principals have considered all possible ways to stagger lunch/recess as well as to utilize space.

From Patrick Stewart to Jennifer Birch, All panelists: (8:30 PM)

Jennifer you are up next

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:30 PM)

great example. when we need teachers we hire social workers

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:31 PM)

You had a student in school today while his test was pending. What is your plan to prevent this from happening again? This is a huge problem- he is now positive!

- Parents need to be accountable for this. The District has no way of preventing this. However, if we discover a student that is not well, they will be sent to the nurse and quarantined there until they can be taken home.

From Rachel Vaughan to All panelists: (8:31 PM)

How do we register that we are in attendance to not miss a chance to speak when the chance may present itself?

From Michele to All panelists: (8:31 PM)

very good point

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:35 PM)

Parents need to be held accountable for allowing their kids to attend school while a test is pending!

From Nicole Smith to All panelists: (8:39 PM)

My risk tolerance for increasing the number of teachers and staff who get more exposed to a deadly disease with unknown long-term effects is 0. Just for the board's knowledge.

From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (8:40 PM)

I think it would be helpful for parents whose children who are NOT in the virtual academy, if there was a way to share the lessons done by Virtual teachers with all families as a extra learning resource.

- These lessons are conducted live and any materials are either the same as what a teacher in the hybrid program would use or may be unique as they would be teacher created.

From Kristina Stroyne to All panelists: (8:41 PM)  
100% agree with Cory.

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (8:41 PM)  
maybe if Cory had an at risk person he would have a different risk tolerance

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:49 PM)  
YES. The survey is misleading!!!!

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:01 PM)  
3-5 minutes are up!

From Rachel Vaughan to All panelists: (9:04 PM)  
Please try to limit speakers to the allotted 3-5 minutes to be respectful of all that wish to speak.  
Thank you

From justin to All panelists: (9:07 PM)  
I would like to raise the question that, if my kids are only doing 50% of a normal years classes then why should I not be paying 50% for my school taxes?

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (9:12 PM)  
What is the change that she is discussing? the one about changes to virtual academy for secondary. thank you!

From Jenna Paulat to All panelists: (9:25 PM)  
I chose not to request a speaking spot tonight because I really did not have a question and did not want to just blivate my opinions. But I do want the board and administration to know that I appreciate your hard work, and believe that you are doing what is best for our children. Thank you for following the recommendations of the CDC and the Dept of Education. As you can hear tonight, parent sentiment is split. But I don't believe this should be a parent-driven decision either. Thank you for continuing to follow the advice of experts. I'm sure you saw that the state recommended that Westmoreland County schools all move to virtual. Now is not the time to increase the population of in school instruction. I truly look forward to the time when our children can be in school full time, safely. Now is not the time. Thank you for all you do.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:26 PM)  
3-5 minutes are up.

From Jenna Paulat to All panelists: (9:27 PM)

Also, I do brag to all of my friends and family in NA, in Latrobe, in Penn Trafford ... about the fabulous job that Avonworth is doing right now.

From Patrick Stewart to Maureen Sweeney, All panelists: (9:49 PM)  
You are up next

From Chris Cieslak to All panelists: (9:57 PM)  
Sorry I stepped away. This is Chris Cieslak if I could still speak.

From Chris Cieslak to All panelists: (9:57 PM)  
Mine is short

From Monica to All panelists: (10:00 PM)  
I will be sending an email tonight since I was not able to speak during the meeting

From Joyce's to All panelists: (10:01 PM)  
If we had prepared a statement and did not get the chance to speak, can we sent it to the board?  
Thank you!

- Yes. Or you can send it to [jhadley@avonworth.k12.pa.us](mailto:jhadley@avonworth.k12.pa.us) and it will be forwarded to the Board.

From nicole to All panelists: (10:02 PM)  
I am in favor of keeping hybrid and would like to have that include synchronous/live stream teaching

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (10:02 PM)  
I sent a message in Q&A—could you please let me know that it was received?

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (10:02 PM)  
please don't be bullied by parents. use science not opinion. keep the motion.

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (10:03 PM)  
this is Tracy Cassidy. Ohio Twp. I support Vicky's proposal to not got back for 4 days. Thank you!!

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (10:04 PM)  
thank you to the board. well done.

Anna Marie White 10:01 PM

Could you please let me know that this was received?