



Caryn Rinehart <rinehartc@hbschools.org>

Re: Opening School Days and Hours

2 messages

Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>

Sun, Mar 7, 2021 at 9:11 PM

To: Sarah Bizzarro <sbizzarro@mendhamtp.org>

Cc: Greg Hobaugh <hobaughg@hbschools.org>, Caryn Rinehart <rinehartc@hbschools.org>, Richard Kolton <koltonr@hbschools.org>, Lisa Fallon <fallonl@hbschools.org>, Emma Alparone <alparonee@hbschools.org>

Dear Mrs. Bizzarro,

Thank you for your email. I will share it with the full Board and we will take your comments under advisement.

I have copied Dr. Hobaugh and his administrative cabinet in this email as the concerns and suggestions you have described pertain to the daily operation of the district and fall under the scope of the Superintendent.

Dr. Hobaugh has a plan in place and he will share it with the Board and make a formal presentation on the 15th.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with the School Board and for having confidence in us to continue advocating for the children and families of High Bridge.

On Sun, Mar 7, 2021 at 6:08 PM Sarah Bizzarro <sbizzarro@mendhamtp.org> wrote:

Mrs. Sharkey,

I am hoping to convince the board to consider expanding the elementary hours to a full day. I know you are discussing options for bringing more student's into the building and expanding the days in which In Person Instruction is offered. The working parents in this district need for their children to return to a normal school schedule as soon as possible. The children also need to spend more hours at work in school. In many capacities their stamina for the school week has been jeopardized by this pandemic.

If the split groups can be disbanded so that most of the student population can come to school Monday through Friday, then the school day should be extended too. The half day, I think I understand, has in large part to do with teacher office hours and accommodating the Distance Learners. With the students in the building there would be drastically fewer Distance Learning and therefore no need for office hours.

I work for Mendham Township School district in Morris County. We are open full day for the full week for the entire student body. We have less than 5% of students currently participating in Distance learning. Students stay in their classroom cohorts for 100% of the day, including lunch and recess. Masks are worn when indoors at all times except when eating. We eat in the classrooms and if outdoor recess is possible, students stay in class groups in designated parts of the school grounds. Our district was even able to provide the teachers with a full lunch period during this time by asking for parent volunteers to monitor lunch and recess for each class. The only other exception to this is Specials when the classroom can accommodate the number of students by maintaining 3 foot distance. We utilize outdoor spaces for as much learning as we can. Overall it has been a very successful and safe year for our students.

The problem for our families and the restricted school hours is also one of finances. Our resources are maxed out after juggling child care for 8 months. I have been teaching remotely 2 days a week since September so that I can pick up my son from school. My district has been very accommodating by providing a substitute for my classes 2 days a week, but this bandaid

cannot continue. And I cannot ask them to provide more sub coverage for me in the coming months. My husband will be out of sick time by April of this year. He will only be able to work 3 days a week for the remainder of the school year if the school day is not expanded. We have been fortunate enough to not have experienced much financial burden due to the pandemic. But, that is about to end for my family.

I know a drastic change is scary. But, High Bridge families need to return to work in full capacity and we need our children to return to school in order to do so.

Thank you for your hard work. I am very proud of High Bridge School Districts efforts and decision making through the pandemic so far. I feel that my son is safe at school. Thank you for considering my request.

Sarah Butterfield-Bizzarro

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Mrs. Sarah Bizzarro

Art Teacher

B.S. Art Education

M.S. Education Leadership

Website: <https://sites.google.com/mendhamtp.org/mtes-specials/home>

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Cindy Sharkey
High Bridge School Board

Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>
To: Greg Hobough <hoboughg@hbschools.org>
Cc: Caryn Rinehart <rinehartc@hbschools.org>

Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 8:44 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Bizzarro** <sbizzarro@mendhamtp.org>

Date: Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 8:33 AM

Subject: Re: Opening School Days and Hours

To: Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>

Thank you Cindy.

I wanted to add that class numbers in my district average 16 students per class/in person.

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