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Subject: kindergarten

To: Emma Alparone <alparonee@hbschools.org>, Greg Hobaugh <hobaughg@hbschools.org>, csharkey@hhbschools.org <csharkey@hhbschools.org>

Cc: John Patti <jpatti74@comcast.net>, Monique von Doehren <movond@yahoo.com>

Good day Board President, Mrs. Alparone and Dr. Hobaugh,

My school year as a Child Study Team member has launched already and I am trying to mentally prepare for my own children's year to begin. I was thinking back to a topic that was addressed during the board meeting when the hybrid program was presented. At that time, masks were not going to be mandatory while sitting in the classroom to receive instruction. I remember someone asking why the program was being proposed in 2 cohorts with 2 days of in school instruction verses 1 cohort of 4 - 5 days per week of in school instruction. The answer had to do with masks. Keeping a lesser number of students in the classroom would allow for students to not have to wear masks during instruction. This was identified to be a very important piece to nurturing a positive and effective learning environment. Now that they must wear masks during classroom instruction as mandated by the Health Dept, and more and more students are opting for either all virtual instruction or disenrollment, is there active conversation about bringing in certain students/grade levels more days, specifically for me, our Kindergarteners? I am very concerned about how much learning my child will be available for considering Kindergarten is all about social development and learning behaviors. These children have not developed the skills necessary to effectively participate in this mode of instruction with independence.

The district where I work, which is much larger than High Bridge, is already actively exploring how to increase student's in school learning experiences sooner than later, especially for our younger children. Is this an option at High Bridge? Does High Bridge BOE have a time frame in mind for when the hybrid plan will be revisited to increase in class instruction?

Thank you for your time,
Monique Patti

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

~ St. Mother Teresa