



**Whitman-Hanson
Regional School District**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



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To: All Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Staff and Families
From: Superintendent Jeffrey Szymaniak
Date: March 1, 2021
Subject: **A. Student Re-entry Plan – School Committee meeting this week March 3rd 6:00PM**
B. Whitman-Hanson COVID-19 cases update

Dear Whitman-Hanson Community:

Student Re-entry Plan – School Committee meeting this week March 3rd 6:00PM

I am writing to inform you of the upcoming School Committee meeting this Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:00 PM. At this meeting, we will focus on a return to in-person learning this school year. I believe we are moving forward with our re-entry despite some of the challenges we are facing, including recent changes to student transportation bus capacity and physical distancing guidelines.

Governor Baker and the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner, Jeff Riley, are advocating for the return of students to in person learning in April. The Commissioner will be meeting with the Board of Education to request authorization to bring Grade K-5 students back to in-person learning by April 5th. This may impact the School Committee's governance of planning return to school dates. Of note, the Commissioner has not announced a return date for Grades 6-12 at this time. I want to thank parents who completed the recent re-entry survey. The following information collected is very useful.

- High School
 - 112 responses for full remote students replied 27 in favor of returning and 85 not in favor.
 - 410 responses for hybrid students replied 267 in favor of returning and 143 not in favor.
- Middle schools
 - 57 responses for full remote students replied 8 in favor and 49 not in favor.
 - 463 responses for hybrid students replied 349 in favor and 114 not in favor.
- Elementary schools
 - 128 responses for remote students replied 20 in favor and 108 not in favor.
 - 636 responses for hybrid students replied 508 in favor and 128 not in favor.

Based on the responses, clearly there is uncertainty for parents/guardians having students return to in-person learning.

Prior to the meeting on Wednesday I would encourage parents to email questions or concerns regarding re-opening to me Jeffrey.szymaniak@whrsd.org. I will try and provide answers to questions I receive in the discussion at the meeting.

The public can watch the School Committee meeting live Members of the public can access a live broadcast of the meeting via live stream <http://whca.tv/watch/live-hanson/>; <http://whca.tv/watch/live-whitman/> and on WHCA's Educational Access Channel 98 EDU-98 (Comcast).

If you would like to participate in the public comment portion of the meeting, you can dial into the ZOOM Meeting ID: 438 304 0386

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/4383040386> or phone: 888-788-0099 US Toll-free
Callers taken on first come first served basis.

Whitman-Hanson COVID-19 cases update

Update on COVID cases:

High School – 1 student

Whitman Middle - 1 student

Hanson Middle - 3 students

Indian Head – 1 student

Duval - 1 staff,

Preschool - 1 student

Thank you and have an enjoyable evening.

Jeff

Jeffrey Szymaniak
Superintendent of Schools