

Superintendent Meloche, President Saidel,  
Vice-President Neary, and  
Members of the Cherry Hill Board of Education

Cherry Hill Public Schools  
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We greatly appreciate the work the Return to School committees undertook this spring in order to implement a plan to bring us back into the buildings. We are grateful to the custodial staff for not only getting our schools ready for September, but also setting up the safety measures required for us to return. However, we are in need of a two week period of full remote instruction to adequately prepare to safely and effectively educate our students. As educators, we have not been provided with adequate information and time to prepare which will negatively impact our students academically, socially, and emotionally. In order to make learning safe and successful for our students and staff during this pandemic, we require the following:

More time for technology and instructional training before students begin the school year

Teachers need time to learn how to implement live stream technology and other various platforms, as well as learn protocols for potential technology issues. These things can be accomplished by moving our two inservice days to the beginning of the year, changing an additional two days from the 182 student days into teacher days (still reaching the mandatory 180 student days), and completing a test run of technology during full virtual instruction the week of Sept. 15th. If the required technology works effectively, we could then move to the proposed hybrid schedule on Sept. 29th.

Specific, written expectations of curriculum and instruction provided to staff

Students deserve highly effective teachers. In order for the staff to be effective, we need clear and consistent written expectations for how and what is to be taught. This has not been provided in a timely manner. We need to be provided with the expectations for how many days per week the students will be exposed to new content vs review material and in what formats each should be provided. Although we are familiar with our curriculum, there has been no information provided that allows us to plan instruction under the given circumstances. We need to be provided with specific and consistent guidelines for teaching in 3 formats simultaneously,

in-person, live streaming, and remote, that allows us to generate the required new or review lessons in each format and provide timely feedback during the school day. Many staff questions/concerns remain unanswered.

### A safe working environment guaranteed for all people in the building

It is of the utmost importance that all students, faculty, staff, and administrators are confident and comfortable with the air quality in the school environment. While our HVAC systems may be functioning as designed, were they designed for this situation? If our HVAC systems cannot work effectively with a MERV-17 filter that collects COVID-19 droplets without decreasing airflow, are we returning to safe buildings? What is being added to our systems to ensure safe air? A plan needed to be submitted to the state that shows we are entering a safe building. Is that plan available to staff and community members so we can hold accountable those responsible for our safety? Are units being inspected by ASHRAE or a certified engineer? Present and on-going concerns include use of fans or window air conditioning units to increase airflow that may further disperse COVID-19 droplets and smaller windowless rooms that lack airflow, such as staff bathrooms, and classrooms that do not have the space to provide for CDC mandated social distancing of staff and students. Further, there are safety factors that will be monitored by parents during live streaming that need clearly written articulation expectations that include, but are not limited to: Are we accountable for remaining distant from students as per CDC guidelines? What if a student is in need of assistance? Are assistants permitted to supervise in separate areas to improve social distancing? What are the protocols for students who choose not to follow safety guidelines?

### Time to ensure student preparedness

As we enter the 2020-2021 school year, we welcome numerous students who are new to our school. We are welcoming some of the youngest in the district. Students new to the district, English language learners, and at risk families need support in securing and using technology as they did last year. We need time to ensure that they have the technology they need to participate remotely. We need staff available to support them rather than stretched thin with the demands of live instruction. We need time to ensure they are able to access platforms and understand how to use the technology we are providing to them. There needs to be time built in to teach them how to learn in this environment before we begin the task of instructing them.

We are making these requests in good faith, in an effort to provide students with the best possible academic rigor and health considerations. Our Johnson parents have been told that adequate training, support, and safety measures have been provided. They are looking to us to

verify and live up to these claims. They are holding teachers accountable with the start of the school year fast approaching. These are our students and our children. We take our responsibility to them seriously. If our requests are not addressed by Tuesday, September 1st, we will be forced to take action. We look forward to your prompt reply.

CHEA Members of James Johnson Elementary School