

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

Cherry Hill Public Schools
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace
Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034

We recognize the work the Return to School committees and school custodial staff have done since March; however, we have one chance to implement this plan and do it well. Our school community has not been given adequate resources, guidance, and time to prepare, which will impact student academic achievement, socio-emotional well-being, and safety. In order to make learning successful for the entire school community during this pandemic, at minimum, the following things must occur:

Move all inservice days so they occur before students begin the school year

These inservice days must be used to prepare the building and staff to implement the new safety and instructional procedures and protocols. Starting the year fully remote and transitioning students to the hybrid model by grade level will allow for the school community to transition gradually and successfully. If the two inservice days are moved to the beginning of the year, along with changing an additional two days from the 182 student days into teacher days (still reaching the mandatory 180 student days) we could start remote instruction for all students on September 15th. Then, we could transition to a hybrid schedule on September 29th, allowing teachers to provide all students with an equitable educational experience that is unhindered by technology issues.

Provide clean air to all people in the building

It is tantamount that all parties; students, parents, administrators, faculty, and staff, are confident and comfortable with the air quality in the school environment. To that regard, a public analysis should be conducted by an outside agency to evaluate air quality in the building. According to the [EPA](#), “due to the complexity and diversity of building types (Schools), sizes, construction styles, HVAC system components, and other building features, a professional should interpret ASHRAE guidelines for their specific building and circumstances.” This report would speak to the basic safety of the learning environment and must be from an independent professional HVAC contractor and be fully disclosed to CHEA. Present and on-going concerns include windows that do not open, leaks in the roof and ceilings, and air conditioning units that do not work properly. As recently as this week, teachers have been in the building and observed these concerns.

Provide adequate PPE and cleaning supplies to all staff

Physical safety and emotional well being of the staff and the students they come in contact with on a daily basis is tied directly to PPE and cleaning materials being adequate and accessible to all. Limited communication, unrealistic time frames, and vague guidelines provided by the district contribute to increased and widespread anxiety and confusion. Basic precautions ranging from masks, face shields, gloves, plexiglass barriers for high-traffic offices, etc. must be provided by the district in order to protect their staff and limit the transmission of COVID-19. These basic [OSHA](#) requirements must be met. Ultimately, there are questions about safety and cleaning procedures that have not been answered.

Accommodate high-risk faculty and staff

Provide reasonable alternatives to staff who are reluctant to leave their professional responsibilities in academia yet are at higher risk of infection. As per [New Jersey Checklist for Re-Opening of School 2020-2021](#), these higher risk staff members have been given no alternative other than taking a leave of absence with no pay/benefits, which does not prioritize the health or emotional wellbeing of faculty, staff, or students.

We are making these requests in good faith, in an effort to provide students with the best possible academic rigor and health considerations. With the start of the school year fast approaching, 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 Cherry Hill High School West