

Public Comments

From: Mahria Trepes <mstrepes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: August 10th Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mahria Trepes
64 Clinton St New Bedford MA
Subject: Reopening of Schools

I am a music teacher, and I teach in two buildings that were built in 1920. Neither building has proper ventilation. I am going to be traveling from class to class on a cart. There has been no plan on how much time I will be given between classes to sanitize instruments and materials. Each classroom in my buildings has a different set up in regards to technology, so my laptop will be able to work with one projector, but just down the hall it won't be compatible. How will I be able to give the same quality of lessons when my students won't have equal access to materials?

I have been told that my time will be split between buildings every 10 weeks. However, there is no 2 week quarantining period being given just in case there is an instance of Covid within one of my buildings. I will be seeing every student and staff member in both buildings. How is the safety of students being considered in regards to reopening? If no extra precautions are going to be taken in regards to the safety of my students in each building, then I'd might as well continue to travel to both during the week.

There is currently no procedure in place in case of an outbreak within a building. If there is an outbreak in one class, will that class be quarantined? If the students in said class have siblings, will that class be quarantined as well? The specialists see every class, and could potentially spread it to every classroom in the building. Will the school be quarantined? What if students in an elementary school that has been quarantined has siblings in the middle schools, or high school. What is the procedure? If a student or staff member dies from Covid, what will be the procedure?

At last week's workshop, the question of sanitation was brought up, about who's responsibility it is to make sure surfaces are clean. First we were told that more custodial staff would be hired. Then we were told that we'd have to take responsibility for cleaning surfaces as well. Which is it? If an outbreak occurs, who is going to be held legally accountable? How much time will we be expected to spend teaching vs. cleaning?

One more thing that has me concerned is when a teacher contracts Covid, how will that be handled? Will they use sick time? Will they be granted FMLA? Will they be given worker's comp since this is a pandemic and we are working in risky conditions? Will we lose compensation for contracting the virus? What is the plan?

There are so many more questions, and fears, and anxieties that I could bring up. The fact that these questions remain unanswered, with 21 days left before teachers are expected to return to work, 14 for those in extended year programs, leaves me to believe that there is no plan. What we are working with is a vague outline, and that is not acceptable. I want to teach my students. I want to help them harness their creativity, and to express themselves. When I prepared to become a teacher, I got comfortable with the fact that I would be willing to risk my life to keep my students safe. This "plan" is not going to help keep my students safe. If anything, it's


putting them at a great risk. There is data continuing to come in from other states, even in Massachusetts that show a return to face to face instruction will result in outbreaks. I am willing to die for my students. I am not willing to help spread a disease from class to class, and building to building. I am not willing to bring a disease home to my loved ones. I don't want to die. And I don't want my students or family to die either.

Public Comments

From: +15089338761@mymetropcs.com
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Attachments: text_1596511669504.txt

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi. I am very worried for my granddaughter who has asma. I really don't want to send her to school under these circumstances. She needs her meds every single day. I don't want her to get sick under her condition. It will be catastrophic for her. Keep our children safe. Please.



Public Comments

From: +15089338761@mymetropcs.com
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Attachments: text_1596511976857.txt

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She can't be all day with a mask. My name is Carmen.
I have custody of my granddaughter. She goes to
Gomes school. Thank you.

Marjorie J Fernandes

From: Melanie S Da Costa
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Marjorie J Fernandes
Subject: RE: Public Comment

Hi Marjorie,

Please see translation below.

Thank you

Mel

From: Orlenda Jackson
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Melanie S Da Costa <msdacosta@newbedfordschools.org>
Subject: RE: Public Comment

I am writing to express my concerns about the reopening of school in September. I think going back to school full time would put our children and staff at risk for Covid-19.

The students will be 3 feet from each other for 7 hours while they are wearing a mask. Many schools have poor ventilation systems and windows that do not work well. I do not want to put any child in these unsafe conditions.

Please consider what is the safest and best choice for all the students and staff. You have the power to make this important decision for all of us and I encourage you to consider approving the 6-foot distance measure. If that is not possible, remote learning should be carried out until it is safe for buildings to reopen.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Zahira Hernández

From: Melanie S Da Costa <msdacosta@newbedfordschools.org>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Orlenda Jackson <ojackson@newbedfordschools.org>
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Do you send this to Darlene and Byron or do I?

From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Melanie S Da Costa <msdacosta@newbedfordschools.org>
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Can you have this email below translated for the Superintendent. Thank you.

Marjorie

Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Recording Secretary for the New Bedford School Committee
New Bedford Public School
455 County Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Telephone: 508.997.4511 Ext. 14552
Fax: 508.997.0298
[NBPS #TLC video](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lamuWqYsfGk>



From: fionapr_31@yahoo.com <fionapr_31@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Public Comments <publiccomments@newbedfordschools.org>
Subject: Public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Le escribo para expresar mis preocupaciones sobre la reapertura de los edificios escolares en septiembre. Creo que volver a la escuela a tiempo completo pondría a nuestros hijos y al personal en riesgo de contraer Covid-19.

Los estudiantes estarán a una distancia de 3 pies uno del otro durante 7 horas mientras usan una máscara. Muchas escuelas tienen sistemas de ventilación y ventanas deficientes que no funcionan bien. No quiero poner a ningún niño en estas condiciones inseguras.

Considere qué es lo más seguro y mejor para todos los estudiantes y el personal. Usted tiene el poder de tomar esta importante decisión para todos nosotros y le insto a que considere aprobar la medida de distancia de 6 pies. Si eso no es posible, el aprendizaje remoto debe llevarse a cabo hasta que sea seguro para los edificios volver a abrir.

Gracias por su tiempo y consideración.

Zahira Hernández

Dear New Bedford School Committee:

8/6/20

As a parent and a teacher, I am writing to you about my serious concerns for returning to in person learning this September.

The argument that returning to school this fall is necessary for student interaction and socialization is a myth. Under current CDC guidelines, children will be separated on buses as well as the classroom. There will be no hugging, touching, sharing of materials or working together in learning centers or cooperative learning groups. We may, to some extent, rely on the availability of being outside for recess and/or phys. ed with distancing protocols. However, with the potential onset of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), this may become impossible. As we know, EEE is cyclical and last summer was one of the worst on record for the Southcoast. Most outdoor events and school sports were canceled, and many schools reverted to indoor recess in order to protect students. Should this be the case again this year, students will be unable to go outdoors for mask breaks, phys. ed, recess, and the like. In essence, "socialization" will be extremely limited on many different levels.

In addition, our state has deemed New Bedford a "hotspot" for the virus, providing us with free walk-in clinics and mobile vans to address a lack of testing and a higher rate in the number of cases than in most parts of the state. As the number of COVID cases continue to rise and state officials question the potential to roll back to Phase 2, consideration should be taken as to whether conditions in our community, and in neighboring cities and towns, are safe enough to have students and teachers together in classrooms.

Furthermore, CDC guidelines are strict as to the 6-foot social distancing rule, however, DESE and NBPS seem to think 3 feet is sufficient in a classroom filled with students. Research shows that children can carry as much of the virus as adults, so the potential of spread is frighteningly real. The 3 feet social distancing standard currently being considered by DESE and NBPS is not only scientifically baseless, but actually goes against best practice guidelines established by the CDC and the state department of health-- placing students, teachers, and other school administrators at heightened risk of COVID-19 exposure.

Many of our buildings are antiquated and do not have appropriate ventilation. Moreover, knowing that the virus can pass through fecal droplets, our bathroom stalls are side by side and toilets do not have seat covers, thereby enabling the potential spread of COVID after every use. Our sinks are also built side by side so when a class is taken to the bathroom by his/her teacher, there will be ample loss on "time on learning" as the teacher will have to try and separate students when using the bathroom and when washing hands in the sink. Who will be responsible for cleaning stalls and all sinks after each individual use? Class use? ... especially in buildings where there is only one custodian.

In response to having Third Party Vendors determine whether or not schools are safe to return to, the determinant should not just be if a building is structurally or environmentally safe, but also whether the number of local and state COVID cases are rising. The pandemic is an ever-

evolving situation; rates of infection are expected to fluctuate in the coming months, and students and school staff do not only face risk of viral exposure in school-buildings, but in virtually every other setting in their lives as well. What happens if there is a surge of infections in a particular neighborhood? What happens over the course of the year if a school is no longer deemed safe? Who will decide that- teachers, parents, principals? Will anyone listen? Will staff have to wait days or weeks before something is tended to, potentially putting staff and students at risk?

Although I understand that many parents want their children to return to school, we should not feel pressured to opening buildings if it is not safe to do so. Because of the threat of not receiving federal funds should schools not open, districts are potentially putting students and teachers at risk in order to receive federal monies. In a city where public outdoor gatherings have been canceled, it is inconceivable that city and school administrators are willing to allow 12 people to a classroom in buildings that house hundreds. If the district decides to rotate students and classes so content teachers are on some days and off others (teaching remotely), what happens to ESL teachers, Special Education teachers, and Specialists- Art, Phys. Ed, Music and Health Teachers who service all or most of the school? Will they have to come in every day and if so, how is that equitable?

We should take the remaining time we have left this summer to reach out to all parents, especially those that were hard to reach and/or whose children participated minimally in remote learning- by way of emails, phone calls or even using multi-lingual contact workers and parent liaisons- to determine what technology families have or need and helping them establish internet connection. Schools should offer trainings (with translators available) to help parents navigate the websites and platforms their children will be using. These meetings could be done virtually but would also have to be in person, only a set amount of people at a time, following social distancing protocols. In this way, parents would be better prepared for any remote/distance learning their children will face.

There are too many "what if's" when considering a return to school this fall. The consequences of returning students and staff back to schools prematurely is not only irresponsible but could be catastrophic, as we have already seen in other states and internationally. The lives of some of our city's most vulnerable residents are at risk, along with their families and loved ones. The only way to keep everyone safe is to begin the year with distance learning.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
C. Vazquez
New Bedford

Sandra S. Silva

From: S R <sairaruiz1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Sandra S. Silva
Subject: Re: Parent Fall Reopening Update 7.30.20

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

My name is Saira Ruiz and I'm the mother of Sharianys Ramirez-Ruiz. I was reading the new fall opening guideline for New Bedford school and I'm not okay with this decision because this is still now a safe plan for none of the children of New Bedford to stay in a distance from their friends or anyone else.

Who this kids are gonna be safe from the Covid-19 when they have to share bathroom? We had a scare with Sharianys and the Covid-19 virus because my daughter was with a family member that had being staying away from others and wearing a mask, but the family member had a family friend that saw her outside her home hanging clothes and hug my family member with out their permission and my family member end up being tested Positive for Covid-19. Because of that a second member of my family got infected and luckily my daughter didn't but I had to keep her in a room for 14 days to be on the safe side because I have health issues.

I'm planning on keeping my child from school at least for this year and I would to know what's the plan for parents that are making that decision?

You can reach me through this email or by phone at (774) 386-8676.

Have a great day.

S.R

On Thu, Jul 30, 2020, 2:51 PM Sandra Silva <sssilva@newbedfordschools.org> wrote:

[Parent Fall Reopening Update 7.30.20 Final - English.pdf](#)

[Parent Fall Reopening Update -Final Spanish 7.30.20.pdf](#)

[Parent Fall Reopening Update - final Portuguese 7.30.20 .pdf](#)

[Parent Fall Reopening Update - final . K'iche.07-30-20.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Parents and Guardians of New Bedford Public Schools,

Please see attached an additional updated information regarding Reopening guidelines for this coming Fall. In addition, you will be receiving a school specific survey from your student's school next week. Please take the time to complete this one minute survey.

Sandra S. Silva

From: Julie Lavoie <Julie.Lavoie@premier-research.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Sandra S. Silva
Subject: RE: Parent Fall Reopening Update 7.30.20

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sandra,

Would you be at all willing to pass this on to our awesome superintendent?

I'm sorry. But if all of this IS necessary, then we have zero business opening schools at all. Every district should be pushing back and telling DESE no. They are completely out of touch and just the lengths districts are going to in order to attempt to meet their non-science based demands is ridiculous. If ANY of this was based in actual science and data, I might be more supportive. But as someone who literally works in clinical science ON COVID studies, this is 100% political and 0% based on data.

Point 1: 5yos are just as contagious as 8yos with literally every virus. In fact, 5yos have a much higher transmission rate simply because they are too young to understand hygiene.

Point 2: The virus that causes COVID-19 does not decrease in size by entering a school. The distance it travels as a particulate in both a cough or sneeze doesn't change by being in a school setting either.

Point3: All of this is based on the silly notion that all students and staff will comply 100% of the time. You are only as strong as your weakest link. In this case, you are only as safe as your least compliant individual. All it takes is ONE non-compliant adult to infect the entire school. No amount of plexi-glass, masks, social distancing will help. And if it's not safe for the school to have a graduation ceremony OUTSIDE in masks in August, then it is completely not safe to have everyone inside closed airspace with (most of the population) masks a couple of weeks later.

Point4: The kids aren't the problem here. The rate of any serious complications among anyone under 25 years of age is literally almost nothing. Are there a few outliers.. sure. But then more kids are dying of child abuse right now than COVID. The problem here is staff members who are older and more vulnerable being forced to come back to work in a risky environment. Why isn't there a more reasonable approach that involves the kids coming to school without all of these silly restrictions with younger staff or those with a positive antibody test on property and allowing the older and more vulnerable staff to work remotely? Wouldn't that make more sense and be a lot more cost effective? Remember, there is data that supports that children are not transmitting this to adults even close to the rate that adults transmit it for various actual scientific reasons. So there's minimal risk to them or their families. This way, all kids, including special needs and economically vulnerable (the highest risk for abuse) are back in the safety of schools and the vulnerable are protected away from the risks brought on by DESE's reckless and scientifically illiterate demands.

In closing, there are far better and more effective ways to address this issue. DESE has no power if literally every district just says "no." Even if my ideas have gaps, which I'm sure they do... I'm not for sending my Autistic child to school in the fall and traumatizing her with these restrictions. We can do better and have a complete obligation to do so.

Thanks!

Public Comments

From: Danielle Medeiros <dee32m@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am a mother of a 16 year old boy who attends New Bedford High School. I am reaching out in hopes of continued remote learning. I really do believe parents should have a choice wether or not their child/children will return to school this fall. Every person learns differently and therefore should have the choice to decide what is best for themselves. Our child/children Our Choice!

Sincerely,
Danielle Medeiros

Sent from my iPhone

Sandra S. Silva

From: Summer Reign <jenileetenshinaikido@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Sandra S. Silva

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I had a few questions regarding school reopening in the fall. I was hoping someone could help to answer these for me.

Where can information be found that schools have a low to intermediate baseline for transmission?

Why were the social distancing guidelines changed from 6ft to 3ft in schools, yet they remain 6ft in every other establishment in the state?

Will a medical professional be present at each COVID-19 isolation site in each school?

Will a staff member monitor all lavatories in all schools to ensure that only a certain number of students are allowed in at a time?

If a student has a family member with a compromised immune system, will that student be offered the opportunity to do remote learning instead?

A concern about students eating in the classroom. If the students desks are 3ft apart because 6ft wasn't feasible, how will students be able to remove their masks in order to eat? Will the desks be moved to a 6ft distance between each student during meal times in order for them to safely remove their masks?

Are there any specifications on the type of mask students are required to wear or may it be any mask of their parent's choosing?

What is going to be the safety protocol for mask breaks? How often will students have mask breaks?

If a child is kept home due to a symptom of a cold, as a precaution determined by the parent, will that be considered an excused absence?

What is the protocol for students who require transportation to and from school? Will a medical professional be on each bus to determine whether a student exhibits signs of COVID-19?

What option do children who can not wear a mask due to medical or religious reasons have?

Will there be any COVID-19 testing conducted in schools without the permission of the student's parents?

Sincerely,
Jenni Gadowski

Sandra S. Silva

From: Jim and Lisa <jandlniland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:40 PM
To: Superintendent's Office; Sandra S. Silva; Mayor Jon Mitchell; Christopher A. Cotter; Joshua Amaral; Colleen Dawicki; Joaquim (Jack) Livramento; Bruce J Oliveira
Subject: Concerns regarding the NBPS parent survey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Superintendent Anderson.

I received your call today regarding the parent survey. How can we, as parents and guardians, make an informed decision regarding what we want for our children this fall if we don't have any information from you to help guide our decision. What will in-school learning look like at NBHS if I send my child? If I choose remote learning, what will that look like? The survey, as a yes or no question, is completely unfair. It's not a yes or no answer.

My daughter is in the Academy of Honors/Capstone Program at NBHS. She plays a Fall, Winter, and Spring sport and is an excellent student.

Do I want my child to return to school and receive the education that she deserves? Absolutely! BUT I will not send my child to school if I don't agree with the guidelines. DESE states 3 to 6 feet for social distancing. 3 feet is not adequate and shouldn't be acceptable by the NBPS Administration. There are over 2000 students and staff at NBHS. Can you insure that you can keep every one of those people safe? It's an old building. Has the ventilation system been addressed? The size of the school. Do you have a large enough custodial staff that can keep the school clean continuously throughout the school day? Teenagers. Can you be sure that each and every student will wear his/her mask all day/every day? Not just in the school building but the moment they step foot on school property.

If I choose remote learning, what will that look like? I know you have said it will be an upgrade from what took place in the Spring but what does that mean? How often will they have face-to-face (via video) instruction will their teachers? Will they be 'taught' during remote or only given assignments to work on?

I understand that you are looking for feedback from parents but there are so many unanswered questions. These questions need to be answered before a parent can make an informed decision regarding their plan for their child(ren) for the next school year. I will not make this decision lightly.

Sincerely,
Lisa Niland

Public Comments

From: Erik Andrade <erikpandrade@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Public Demands For The School Department of New Bedford

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Erik Andrade from 212 Grinnell Street Ward 5 in New Bedford Ma and I demand that New Bedford Public Schools cease the use of School Resource Officers in our schools, institute a well resourced restorative practice/justice program and work to dramatically reduce the use of suspensions in the city's schools – Although we approve of police officers familiarizing themselves with school layouts during non-school hours to train on entering and exiting school buildings in the event of emergencies, we are opposed to the housing of police officers within schools permanently. Recent history and research has proven that school safety has not improved with the use and housing of permanent SROs.

Many students feel unsafe in the presence of police officers especially during the country's current exposure and response to police brutality. This is a local, statewide, and national problem and schools in both Providence and Minneapolis have responded to the issue by terminating their contracts with police departments.

The school system in New Bedford, MA should cease the use of SROs in our schools. We should make regular use of surveys and focus group interviews to understand student perspectives on disciplinary structures in their school environments. Students are best positioned to analyze and articulate the flaws of current structures and processes.

The school system should also report all suspensions publicly. In addition to the state mandated offenses, the public should be informed of all suspensions in any given academic year.

A restorative practice/justice program should also be implemented as an interconnected part of the school culture. The program should be fully funded to include ongoing professional development for teachers, staff, and student leaders to focus on creating just and equitable learning environments, building and maintaining healthy relationships and healing harm and transforming conflict.

All faculty should be trained to better suit diverse and low income students rather than resorting to disciplinary action as a response to students displaying high amounts of stress and anxiety from experiences outside of school.

The school system should also update dress codes and educate their faculty on early development in young women and men to remove biases against different body types that lead to students being targeted.

Police officers and disciplinary measures in our schools and disciplinary measures can trigger anxiety in many of our students. Moreover it could lead to the increased criminalizing of students and an increase in the school to prison pipeline. Please vote to remove the School Resource Officers in our public schools and replace them with restorative justice programs and increased community based counselors.

Public Comments

From: Julie Couture
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: COVID-19 Reopening Plans and Considerations

To the members of the New Bedford School Committee,
My name is Julie Couture and I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant working primarily at Carney Academy. As you are all faced with the insurmountable decision determining the course forward regarding in-person education in New Bedford, I would like to present you with this article:

[Intellectual and developmental disability and COVID-19 case-fatality trends: TriNetX analysis](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7245650/)

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7245650/>)

Margaret A. Turk, Scott D. Landes, Margaret K. Formica, Katherine D. Goss
Disabil Health J. 2020 Jul; 13(3): 100942. Published online 2020 May 24. doi: 10.1016/j.dhjo.2020.100942

PMCID:

PMC7245650

My take away from this is stated in the Conclusions section, "Though of concern for all individuals, COVID-19 appears to present a greater risk to people with IDD, especially at younger ages. Future research should seek to document COVID-19 trends among people with IDD, with particular attention to age related trends."

While the recommendation from DESE is that Special Education and pre-school students have priority in returning to in-person education, I hope you consider this study. Please consider the extensive needs regarding PPE of both students and staff. Please consider the extensive transmission possibilities of students who cannot handle the physical and sensory limitations of social distancing. Please consider the lack of data for further studies like the one stated here. Will NBPS be providing positive outcomes or adding to occurrences of COVID-19 among our student population with intellectual disabilities?

Sincerely,

Julie Couture, COTA/L
5 Daniel Road
Wareham, MA 02571

Public Comments

From: jennifer jordan <jenjordancolor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: The Tiger Chasing Us..Living in the Brain Stem

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the New Bedford Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear School Board Members,

Thank you for your honorable service to our community. The decisions that you have to make for this upcoming year are unprecedented and hopefully we will never be subject to this again.

I am a STEM teacher for the district at RCIS and absolutely love my job! I appreciate the supportive administration that our district has and trust they will make the best decisions for our schools this fall.

My family moved here 2 years ago from Alaska in order to take care of my parents. We even dragged my in-laws here, who have never lived anywhere but Alaska. We really have made family based decisions in order to take care of each other. All of our parents are considered high risk and 2 of them live with us so we can care for them. We have all truly isolated ourselves to make sure that we did everything we could to avoid the virus. The thought of going to school and being exposed only to bring it home to them is absolutely unbearable.

I have a degree in science and somewhat understand the anatomy of the brain and how stress and anxiety controls behaviors. There is no doubt that this fall, in the classrooms, teachers and students alike will be thinking in their brainstems and living in a survival stage. We can't think clearly when a tiger is chasing us. In our case the tiger is a sneeze, a naughty mask, a sanitizer bottle not being used enough, students not understanding what 3 feet is, (hell...is 3 feet really going to keep me alive), a sink that doesn't work, ventilation noises that are unpredictable, a bathroom break, a hall passing, a dropped pencil, or any other unnecessary movement in the classroom, ect.... I can tell you right now that very few of our teachers or students will be set up in the right part of the brain in order to properly learn. Please help us avoid the tiger...it will be safe again soon...this is only a temporary threat.

Thanks for taking this into consideration and keeping our families safe!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Jordan
1 Linden Lane
Dartmouth, Ma
907-242-5319