



# Reopening Schools Forum #1

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Wednesday, July 15, 2020  
Via Google Meet

# Google Meet Guidelines

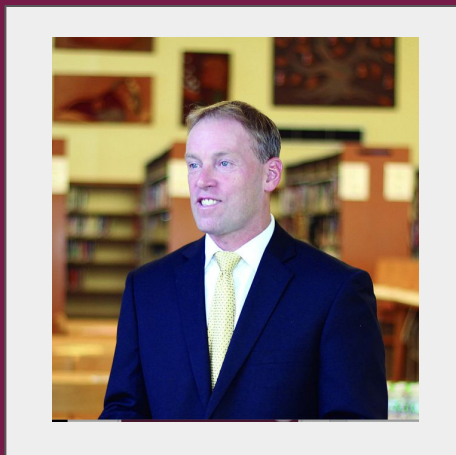
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- ❖ Please mute device mic when not speaking
- ❖ Use chat feature to submit questions
  - May type questions or indicate you want to unmute to ask a question
- ❖ Please be polite & refrain from interrupting



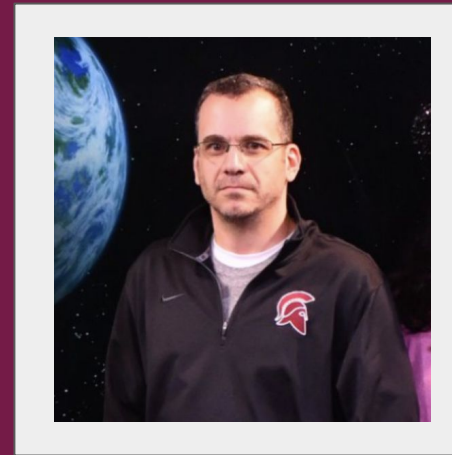
# Tonight's Hosts



**Superintendent  
Patrick McGrath**



**Assistant  
Superintendent  
David Collins**



**Assistant  
Superintendent  
Christopher Abdoo**

# Presentation Outline

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- ❖ Recap of Reopening Schools Process
- ❖ NYS Department of Health Guidance
- ❖ Reopening Consideration
- ❖ Questions & Answers

# Reopening Process

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- ❖ **June: Reopening Committee Meetings**
  - Broad Stakeholder Committee
  - Reviewed multiple options
  - Considered a wide variety of perspectives
  - Largely a brainstorming process

# Reopening Process

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- ❖ **July Week #1:** Discussions within Teachers' Association, Administration & Building Leadership Teams
- ❖ **July Week #2:** Review NYSDOH guidance; Building Council meetings, create parent survey

# Reopening Process

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- ❖ **July Week #3:** Review parent survey feedback; Create draft reopening plan
- ❖ **July Week #4:** Share reopening plan with Building Councils, School Board; Review/Approval July 28, seek community feedback--July 29 Virtual Forum #2 at 6 pm
- ❖ **July 31:** Submit Reopening Plans to SED

# Reopening Process

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- ❖ **Aug. 1-7:** Governor to decide if schools will reopen
  - Governor Cuomo said: State developed a formula that will allow schools to reopen this fall in regions that are in phase four and have a COVID-19 infection rate of 5% or less on a rolling 14-day average.
  - Governor Cuomo said: Different regions are in different phases. If the infection rate goes over 9% using a 7-day average, then we hit an emergency stop button.



# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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*“This Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (“Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools”) was created to provide all elementary (including pre-kindergarten), middle, and high schools, as well as their employees, contractors, students, and parents/legal guardians of students with precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 for schools that are authorized to provide in-person instruction in the 2020-2021 school year.”*

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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### ❖ Face Coverings

- To be worn at all times by all individuals when six feet of social distancing *can't* be maintained (except when eating, during instruction (wsd)), and must be worn on bus.
- Face coverings *will be provided to students and staff*, but individuals may wear their own as long as the masks cover both the nose & mouth.
- Extra face coverings will be available in each building.

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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### ❖ **Appropriate Social Distancing**

- Six-feet of space between individuals is needed in classrooms (12-13 students)
- Looking into adding physical barriers in classrooms where needed to provide for 12-13 seats.
- Space out seating in cafeteria, place tables/seating outside
- PE classes outside
- Investigate outdoor tents for extra space

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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- ❖ **Hygiene, Cleaning & Disinfecting Practices**
  - Follow DOH hygiene/cleaning practices
  - Display CDC-provided signage; teach proper hand washing & appropriate face covering placement (nose & mouth)
  - Soap, paper towels & hand sanitizer readily available
  - Daily disinfecting using both DOH-approved cleaners & misting equipment & solutions

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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- ❖ **Hygiene, Cleaning & Disinfecting Practices**
  - Daily cleaning of restrooms & fixtures
  - Regular cleaning/disinfecting of frequently touched areas (i.e., desks, cafeteria tables, main office counters, door handles, etc.)
  - Consider closing drinking fountains

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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### ❖ Daily Health Screenings

- Temperature reading of each individual prior to entering building; 100 degrees or greater go to nurse/designated area; staff to return home
- Remote/electronic screening questionnaire for staff, daily
- Rely on at-home checks, too. If child has fever, please do not send him/her to school. We will communicate this regularly.

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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### ❖ Contact Tracing

- The district must notify the state and local health departments when they've been informed of any staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Must adhere to the NYS Contact Tracing Program protocols & health department isolation/quarantine efforts.
- Confidentially to be maintained, per federal and state regulations

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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- ❖ **Increase ventilation** as much as possible
  - Open windows & doors (without compromising safety) to increase airflow in buildings and rooms.
- ❖ Rigorous and ongoing **cleaning and disinfecting**.



# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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### ❖ Transportation

- Face coverings **MUST** be worn on the bus at all times by all individuals.
- Household members share the same seat on the bus.
- Social distance as much as possible; use every other seat but contingent upon bus population density.
- Students must ride the same bus every day. Limited options.

# NYS Guidance

## Required for Opening School

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### ❖ Transportation

- Strongly encourage parents to provide their own transportation to and from school if possible.
- Parent survey to include question about who will rely on bus transportation next year.

# How Do We Reopen?

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## Guiding Principle

We need a plan that provides a high-quality education consistent with the guidelines provided to us by the NYSDOH that maximizes **academic benefit** and promotes the **social-emotional and physical well being** of all of our students and staff.

# How Do We Reopen?

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**Please Note:** Everything from this point forward is tentative and subject to changes and revisions as we continue gather data.

# How Do We Reopen?

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We are considering an option wherein we offer a **fully virtual school** enrollment option for parents who choose to keep children out.

- ❖ Timebound: Commit for at least one semester.
- ❖ Full Time, well-organized, daily live classes on a schedule.
- ❖ Same academic requirements as in-person.
- ❖ Would cover all core and required courses. Some limitations on electives for secondary students.

# How Do We Reopen?

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- ❖ The next part of the plan is dependent upon the number of students opting for **in-person vs virtual** at each level.
- ❖ A parent survey will be going out Thursday to get a first round idea of what parents are thinking. This is essential for planning.

# How Do We Reopen?

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## ❖ ELEMENTARY IN-PERSON

- Goal would be to bring elementary students who opt for **in-person** to school every day. This would be done by re-organizing the building to identify all available additional space.
- Group size would be limited to what social distancing would allow in each space.
- Teachers and teacher assistants would flip between groups.

# How Do We Reopen?

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## ❖ ELEMENTARY IN-PERSON

- If unable to accomplish this based on numbers we would look at two options:
  - Move an elementary level to another building; or
  - Move to a Live-Virtual Hybrid Model



# How Do We Reopen?

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## SECONDARY IN-PERSON

- ❖ For buildings where it is NOT possible to achieve social distancing with the number of students expected in-person, the district is exploring a **Live-Virtual Hybrid School**.
- ❖ Would likely be the model of choice for middle and high school. Unless a large number of students chose virtual.

# How Do We Reopen?

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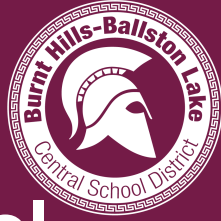


## ❖ What is a Live-Virtual Hybrid School

- Teachers in classrooms with students, socially distanced; teaching half of their students in person while broadcasting the lesson live to the other half of the class.
- Students switch between live or virtual on an every other day rotation.
- All students in the same family would be placed on the same alternating day.

# How Do We Reopen?

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- ❖ **Advantages of a Live-Virtual Hybrid School**
  - Students have regular in-person contact with teachers.
  - Students have a regular daily schedule whether in person or remote.
  - Teachers are able to cover the full 180 days of material.
  - Students are able to access their electives.
  - We are able to pivot to fully live or fully remote as conditions change.

# How Do We Reopen?

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- ❖ **Live-Virtual Hybrid School** will only be chosen for elementary if we conclude that we cannot accommodate the number of students in strict adherence to the DoH Guidelines every day.
- ❖ Would likely be the model of choice for middle and high school. Unless a large number of students chose virtual.

# Submitted Questions

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## Instruction Related

- ❖ Will activities such as band, chorus, drama club, sports, etc. still occur?
- ❖ Will teachers be trained on how to teach remotely/distance teach?
- ❖ Will teachers/staff/students with pre-existing conditions or those in at-risk groups be given the opportunity to work/teach/learn from home?

# Submitted Questions

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## Transportation Related

- ❖ Will there be a pick-up & drop-off procedure for parents who choose to transport their children to & from school?
- ❖ Will students have their temperature checked BEFORE boarding the school bus?
- ❖ Can I drop my children off at school but have them transported home after school? Or is it an “all-in or all-out” model due to space limitations?

# Submitted Questions

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## Safety Related

- ❖ How will students be educated on how to follow infection control measures?
- ❖ How will the district handle non-compliant staff and students?
- ❖ Will the district be asking families & staff who travel outside of NYS to report that travel to the district?
- ❖ Will the district be shutting down the buildings to outside visitors and volunteers?

# Submitted Questions



## Safety Related

- ❖ If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, how will parents be informed?
- ❖ Do the ventilation systems in the buildings need to be upgraded?
- ❖ The Governor has a stop valve measure to close schools if COVID cases reach a certain percentage, is BH-BL looking at a stop valve (e.g., 1 case/class) to shift to full remote learning for two weeks or a predetermined time/testing criteria?



# Submitted Questions



## Other

- ❖ Are there reserves in the budget to prepare for costs associated to reopen schools? How does the financial cost weigh in on the decision to reopen schools in a way that maximizes safety, learning, and the well-being of children, teachers, and staff?



# Online Questions?

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To be asked in the order they  
were received.



# Thank you!

- ❖ **Reopening Forum #2 Wednesday, July 29 at 6 p.m. via Google Meet.**
- ❖ **The Google Meet link is on our website.**
- ❖ **Feel free to reach out to us with any additional questions.**