

CHASE TOWN HALL MEETING (May 19, 2020)

1. Distance Learning - How is it going? What's working & what isn't working?

- a. Like the laptop / My son knows how to use it and connect with Bluetooth. He is learning a lot. I love it. I like homeschooling. Since I've been laid off, I've enjoyed teaching him. It's frustrating at times, but I love this moment to teach and be with my son. How you guys did it so fast, it's amazing. It's been hard with my patience, but it's been great.
- b. I want to express our gratitude and appreciation. The curriculum has been great. I appreciate the playlist. It's really organized, and we can see when they're finished. My girls are really happy with the feedback from the teachers.
- c. Chase & Hillsdale students - I have an opposite point of view. I think that distance learning is a joke. Students are not getting what they need. When I ask students to compare the learning, they laugh. Nothing is as good as in-person schooling. If students don't get back into school, it's going to be a disaster. Exaggeration of the disease is impacting our students and limiting they're opportunity for the education they need. *Tamara: We understand that there is no comparison to the regular education students receive.* Parent continued: I agree, the teachers are amazing, and there is no substitute for school. This problem is frustrating for me as a parent. The Zoom distance learning is challenging.
- d. I understand the interaction is limited. We would appreciate more interaction with the parents, i.e. getting an update on what students are completing and not completing. We are kind of taking our kids' words for what they submitted. It would be better to get an update from the teacher on what has been completed and what is missing.
- e. I agree... I understand they are in elementary, but taking our students' word for what they have completed is difficult. I need to make sure that I am with her every day making sure she completes assignments. Maybe if we had editing capabilities or something... Just improving the communication to be able to be on the same page regarding what has been completed and what is missing.
- f. I want to thank all of the teachers for what they are doing. I have been volunteering with the teachers. The students are using the programs, and it is beautiful. I do wish they would come back to school. Thank you for all the teachers. Thank you so much!
- g. I am worried about the writing and speaking skills. Students do have interactions with teachers during Zoom, but if we are reflecting on what is and is not working with distance learning is the writing and speaking / communication skills. Sometimes volume control can be challenging on some of the videos.
- h. I don't feel that there is enough teacher interaction. I feel like students need more time communicating and interacting with teachers. The playlists seem to be working well, and the teachers have been communicating what has and has not been completed.

- i. The Zoom learning is not the same as learning at school. My child is more resistant with doing his work when he is in the house. He challenges, "I don't want to do it."
 - j. I lost my wife recently, and I've recently returned to work, but I'm not an essential worker, so my child care is at the mercy of family. It can be challenging to get my son to get his work done. He also isn't getting enough exercise, so his attention span is not as great as it can be. He is responsible to get on Zoom, but he is only doing the bare minimum beyond that. It's also challenging that I'm not around as much recently to stay on top of him getting his work done. I feel like I might have to take some time off this summer to stay home... I don't know how to home school my son when I'm at work. *Tamara: I understand. These are challenging times. I am very proud of CVUSD in how we have been able to get distance learning up to speed quickly. We had an advantage in that our students already knew a lot of how to use the software, etc.*
- 2. Child Care: We are providing free child care for essential workers at Chase Ave. It looks different than EDP and what we're used to... We're looking at summer and next fall. We're wondering how many of you will need more child care moving forward. How many of you will need child care, and what will that look like, including times of the day.**
- a. Evenings mostly. My work is limiting contact with other employees. The biggest question I have in trying to navigate this is are they trying to start up school earlier... It's gotten to a point where I can't plan for it, and I don't want him to miss out.
 - b. I just love Chase Ave. Go Tigers! Mr. Handley, you're a great person, and it's a great staff! I just love Chase Ave.!
 - c. Do you have any information on when we can anticipate going back and when this school year will end? *Tamara: I do know that we will end this school year as planned on June 18th.*
 - d. I know there's been discussion about staggering out kids' schedules. That can be problematic trying to balance everyone's schedules. *Brian: Most of that will depend on CDC and requirements from the state, given how many students will be allowed in one area at a given time... We want to understand from parents what their needs for child care are and what ideas they have for the fall.*
- 3. I'm going to divide us up into breakout rooms for our last question... We know that next year's school year will look different than it has been based on being in the middle of a pandemic. We haven't been given any clear parameters from the Dept. of Education or from the state... We do know that (1) parents want students back at school and (2) social distancing will very likely be in place. Given that we don't have double or triple the number of classrooms or teachers, we will have those challenges. There's potential issues with funding, and we are asking the state for some flexibility with funding.**
- a. Breakout #1: We all want a vaccine. We are all afraid of the virus. We do want more Zoom and improved playlists. Parents want flexibility. Response from

another parent: I understand the concerns for putting children back at school, but there are issues that we have put ourselves in with regards to the economy. Also, our kids are at the least risk for the virus. While it may not be ideal to put your kid back at school, the rest of the world is already doing it.

- b. Breakout #2: Some of the parents are willing to send students back to school, especially if there are alternate days or times with smaller amounts of children.
- c. Breakout #3: All parents in the breakout are uncomfortable sending students back to school without a vaccine. Even if there is a general plan, they want to make sure more things are in place for them to feel safe. Re: Academics, Home school is fine to continue while things are still getting figured out. They are comfortable continuing home schooling at home. They would like to see more interactions with teachers. Parents just don't feel like the access to the teachers is fully clear and laid out. They also want more supplemental work for students who have finished the playlist. The parent-provided work is not perceived as "official" by the students, so they want to see more supplemental work provided.
- d. Breakout #4: Safety of kids is huge. One parent has a high-risk child, so they want home schooling as an option for students at higher risk. Smaller groups and staggered times are other suggestions. Zoom every day but with a smaller group for Zoom meetings; students need more Zoom time and more directed time with teachers.
- e. Breakout #5: We brainstormed how everyone is feeling with the situation. We discussed how the media is not sharing the positive aspects, such as how many have gotten through the virus and recovered. Spokesperson parent expressed that he feels students should just go back to school; waiting for a vaccine is not reasonable, especially when there are no vaccines for other illnesses.
- f. Breakout #6: I wouldn't take my son to school if there was no vaccine. There is no way, my perspective, to clean the rooms, etc. *Madalyn: Would you prefer the current distance learning model if there is still no vaccine?* Parent: Yes. My husband has been doing most of the home schooling. I would continue to do the home schooling until there is a vaccine. ... Next Parent: I would like to have some paperwork in addition to the computer. *Greg: We do have packets available. Just pick up during the lunch time and ask for the specific grade level work.* ... Next Parent: My suggestion would be to open school with smaller classes, maybe a different time: one group in the morning and one in the afternoon or different days of the week. They used to go to school 6 hours, and now they only get about 1 hour of school. They're not learning as much, and they need more time in school. We wish they would open the schools again. School is School / Home is Home. They spend time at school with their friends, and they learn how to be with each other by going to school. *Madalyn: Of course, it's going to be difficult. As a counselor, it's very difficult, especially for our littler students. Eventually, we will be able to accommodate for as many students as we can... It's tough during this time of not knowing, and we're all in it together.*

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