

FUERTE ELEMENTARY TOWN HALL MEETING (May 15, 2020)

Parent Meeting with Tamara Otero

5.15.20

50 Attendees

1. How's it going? What do you like? What don't you like about Distance Learning?

- Grateful for distance learning. It doesn't feel the same. Not able to be as engaged as they are at school. Missing social component. Doesn't compare to what they are able to do in the classroom
- No replacement for a teacher. Given our circumstances, we are grateful.
- Hillsdale and Fuerte. Surviving and getting by. Does not work. Not something the parents want. I will go somewhere else. 6th grader at Hillsdale, zips through links in an hour. Worried, concerned. Girls love school. Daughter cries every day, she wants the live interactions. Surviving right now.
- (Tamara): Our purpose is that children are loved, safe, and learning. Choice of whether we go back belongs to state. Legally, we can't send our children back to school yet.
- New normal. No expectation of going back because of all I'm seeing. I get the inequities of the families, optional does not help. District needs to provide more structure and plan. I expect this is what it's going to look like for the next year. Outline is helpful. Check-in with teacher, go over the day, goes well. She gets her time, I can lean in as a parent and help.
- Teachers already established their relationship with kids, thankful for this distance learning in emergency situation
- 2 kids at Fuerte, 3rd grader is keeping up on current skill level. Kinder is not techie, he's an outdoorsy 6-yr old boy. He likes Zoom, engaged in those after that he is out, he needs someone to write and read with him. He does not want to read with mom, he wants his teacher. We are fortunate that it was so late in the year, and that the students have a relationship with their teacher but going forward do not know how that will be possible
- Want virtual hands-on, teaching the lesson. Not just apps.
- It is working ok, the 4th grader is more independent than the kindergartener, they can get through the work without interaction, and then they are done. There is not actual teaching.
- More Live teaching opportunities, lessons
- Office hours have been very helpful for students who are struggling in a subject. Appreciate all of the hard work of the teachers.

- Students are not as engaged, all of the students talk over each other, and students are being overlooked. Students had to go to office hours to be heard. Students too young to be in front of the computer all day.
- Happy with how Fuerte has been working with kids. What is the new normal going to be? This is not working, even though the teachers have been working very hard.
- It feels like the kids are getting busy work, and they are not progressing, we would like more interaction with the teachers, and more structured like a regular school day.
- It is hard for students with special needs, they are in school all day long. They are not benefiting from this.
- There may be some solutions coming.

2. Childcare, What are your needs?

- There is child care currently at Chase, we are taking safety precautions, and it is going well, and we are looking to expand
- Vote - Essential workers - 0
- Not Essential worker but wanted childcare -
- Did not need childcare - 3
- ½ really needed help with childcare, ½ did not need as much childcare
- Parents who are home feel that they can do it, but not doing anything well
- How can we send our kids to childcare, but not to school?
- Regardless of what the option that is chosen, it will need to be the same option for all families, so if you have multiple kids, it needs to be the same for all of them
- Even if they did not need childcare, they needed to have the social/emotional piece
- Parents need to take care of themselves too
- It is hard to be both Mom/Dad and do a good job at work as well
- Parents are scared to put their children in with other children

3. If you could dream it, what would it look like? (If we were back how comfortable would you be? Would you like to do two/three days a week? What would you like to see? What would make you feel like your child was safe, and that they are still learning?)

Breakout Room

- Great idea to do a hybrid. If we can't send them back fully, that's a great alternative. Biggest concern is with incoming kinders. If they can get in 3x/week.
- Like idea of hybrid is next best thing to being there all week. Again, mental health and problem solving, time with teacher, not a teacher, not my specialty/favorite thing. Exposure would be great, even if just a few days/week.
- I am a teacher, I'm getting the thing from my own kids. The big thing for me is being safe. Both safe for own kids and school kids.

- Taking instruction is not the same from their parent.
 - They'll get that even if it's just a few days/week. Reading a lot about looping. Want kids to stay with teachers.
 - Could each class just go with the next group, or stay with teacher? Logistical
 - Partial learning, could it be an afternoon and morning group. Important to be there every day for shorter time.
 - Curious to know what homeschool "packets" look like.
 - Online stuff is great, but want to have pencil in hand. Want kids to write, physically writing.
 - Vote: hybrid: 4 keep home/4 send in mask/social distance (if we have to!)
 - Would prefer homeschool/distance learning to sending kids with all these regulations
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- If we are not allowed to go back to school at all, for IEP/Special Needs they should allow those students to come in for extra support
 - If we feel safe we want to be back
 - Maybe families that don't feel safe or have high risk families that maybe they can do home school/distance learning
 - Variety of opinions from go back to keep it how it is
 - Do a hybrid, smaller zoom groups, in the classrooms ½ of the normal amount of kids in the classroom is the max # anyone in this group feels comfortable with
 - No one knows what the state is going to do, it would be nice to do a poll of the parents with who is comfortable/not comfortable
 - Smaller Zooms for classes
 - Loop with the same teacher if they are not going back to school in the fall so that their teacher will know them, and their needs
 - Keep the siblings schedule the same is very important
 - 50/50 on coming back, but just making sure that it is safe
 - Parents want to think about this more, and would like to have more Zoom meetings about this (we will be meeting again 5/26 @ 11:00)
 - (Tamara): It would be great to have zoom meetings with principal, and there will be 3 surveys, one at the end of May and 2 in June
 - We had 50 people in this zoom meeting, and thank you for coming
 - PTA/Kristen will be sending out links for upcoming zoom meetings
 - The district does not want to make a decision to do distance learning now, if we may have options to come back
 - Very important for the district to be transparent in what is happening even if it is not good news
 - May 26th next PTA Zoom meeting (will send Zoom link when available!)