

MERIDIAN TOWN HALL MEETING (May 18, 2020)

Parent Meeting Notes 5/18/20

Welcome! Meeting starts at 2:01.

Interpretation available on Zoom.

121 Participants!

Tamara Otero introduces herself.

3 Essential Questions:

Is distance learning working for you and if not what can we do to assist?

What will a parent's child care needs be? How important is child care for your family?

School is going to be, and look different next year. But no news from the Governor or the CDC at this time. If you could dream it or build it what would it look like?

Is your child safe, loved and learning?

- 1. How has distanced learning impacted your family? What is working and what is not working?** A parent feels that she needs more time to work through the lessons. Another parent would like more online learning as he feels his child has forgotten site words and is falling behind. Advised to reach out to teachers to join more small groups if possible. Another parent is concerned that her child is not listening to her as a parent and not as a teacher. Would like to work more on Playlists during Zoom calls, and is concerned about how to get her son to stay focused. Another is concerned about child's trouble with technology issues. Would like more help with Playlists. Another is concerned over Playlist assignments and confusion with them. Another feels iReady is not age appropriate for Kindergarten. Another feels ELearning is not age appropriate for Kindergarten. Another would like more instructions. Some students have finished all of the work and would like more assignments and homework for his level. Is concerned about her child having too much free time.
- 2. How important is Child Care to your family?** Child care is going to look very different from before. How to help a student who is home alone for great lengths of time? What other safety precautions will be taken? What about high risk families? What are the costs? Difficulty planning without more information from the state. How can a parent work when her student is in school only a couple of hours per day? What about students that are out of our district? Support is here for students that live elsewhere.
- 3. School will look different, but how would you dream it?** How will we be allowed to operate in the future? What will work for parents? Looking for flexibility. How is school going to be funded? One parent would like her child to go to school for a few hours in the morning. Another parent is very concerned about how children are going to stay

healthy with the distanced leaning parameters. A student suggests lines on the floor to keep students in separate areas and is concerned about how safe she is going back to school. Another parent is concerned how to keep students safe at recess and lunch.

Breakout Rooms Ideas:

- Attend school part of the day, and do distanced learning as well.
- Concerns about keeping children safe and healthy while at school.
- Parents concerned about going back to school full time.
- Concerns about children falling behind if we continue with 100% distanced learning.
- Another expressed that younger children are gaining more independence which is good.
- How are schools going to be funded?
- Teachers dream is to go back to school full time, but some parents want the social connections and for children to be with friends.
- Concerns for full time working parents.
- Possibly different schedules for different students.
- Discussed different learning models, especially for students of different levels.
- Concerns about students and their attention spans.
- Flexible options, suggested 3 to 4 students per Zoom group.
- Possibly tutoring options for students that are struggling.
- What about students on IEPs?
- We are a model that is working for successful child care for essential workers.
- Some are certain many students will not return without a vaccination first and sending students to school must be an option.
- Another asks for flexibility in days and start times.
- Safety was overarching theme.
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