

Additional Virtual Comments 8/4/2020-5:15 p.m.

Christina	O	Save lives	<p>Let's return face to face when it is safe. It's not worth losing a life. If we could save one life we should. I'm afraid if we start face to face in a couple of days, it won't last long and we'll be back to virtual learning and teaching. Why not start virtual and have high hopes of returning face to face when we have less cases, numbers, and deaths.</p>
Deirdre	Rutledge	Reopening schools is dangerous	<p>RE: safety in our schools, decisions that mean life or death.</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS for virtual learning:</p> <p>PODS - A small group of parents with jobs chip in on a babysitter or tutor for very small groups of kids, who can learn virtually together so parents can work.</p> <p>SCHOOL EMPLOYEES - ie. custodial, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers that have experience with kids and background checks to go to kids homes and give childcare to very small groups, and it could be paid for by the school budget. Otherwise, they are unemployed, so in terms of the general economy this would be a better choice for everyone. They would be getting their normal (not big money!) salary anyway, it's just altering their job description temporarily.</p> <p>CHILDCARE BY OLDER STUDENTS - high school students can babysit younger students; together learning virtually, and they can get community service or OJT credit.</p> <p>Regardless of when it happens, the time to reopen is the time that it's safe.</p> <p>As of now, reopening 5 days a week in brick and mortar schools is dangerous, but parents have been assured it's not by the school board and educators that don't want put their jobs at risk.</p> <p>Our community trusts you to keep their children safe. How are you personally going to feel when it's obvious that people are getting sick and dying due to your decisions for reopening schools?</p> <p>This is why most parents are sending their children back to school, but we will be going virtually entirely in the near future at great cost to our children and their families.</p> <p>If teachers are used as guinea pigs to see the percentage of people they get sick during the workdays, they won't be as careless as children, and we will have smaller numbers, and most (hopefully all) will practice social distancing and wear masks, so it will appear this is not that contagious, but it will be obvious when thousands of children return to school in Flagler County alone; the growth will be exponential.</p> <p>Covid will be even more out of control if we do this, and the economy will further suffer until we flatten the curve. Educators are being held accountable; the school board should be too.</p> <p>You have the means to stop this; it's in your hands. Thank you, Deirdre Rutledge</p>

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Laura	Gollon	Drills	<p>I have dedicated the past 14 years of my life to the children of our community as a special education paraprofessional. I believe that Flagler County schools should be completely virtual for at least the first semester, revisiting this decision at that time. There are too many risks going back to brick & mortar. I would have chosen the retirement package that was offered recently but I'm 5 months shy of being eligible for the best of the 2 choices. Since I feel stuck going back to work I wonder what active shooter drills & tornado drills are going to look like. Will there be social distancing? I think not. There will be lots of sharing of droplets from mouths & noses. Someone once said something that I totally agree with: I'm willing to take a bullet for my students in the classroom but I'm not willing to bring that bullet home to my family. Covid-19 is our new active shooter. Please do the right thing and make school virtual for as long as it takes to get this disease under control. Thank you.</p>
Laura	Dormady	Safety-iFlagler	<p>Questions: I know that when you first started coming up with plans there was face-to-face and iFlagler. iFlagler was not face-to-face. Now that there is third option, suddenly iFlagler is face-to-face. iFlagler was an option that was available to staff who are vulnerable, or are in a household that is vulnerable. Why was that change made? Also, why do the teachers who teach from iFlagler have to be housed on school property? This increases their risk.</p>
Laura	Dormady	testing	<p>If a student or teacher is tested positive for Covid19 and has to be out for an extended period of time, would that student(s) and/or teacher(s) effected be given a waiver as to the ramifications of state testing, especially considering that brainfog is one of the extenuating symptoms that often runs well beyond the course of the illness. I understand that the rules for testing are out of your hands. So my question to you is can and if you can, will you ask for an MOU from the state in case of these circumstances, or even no testing this year, due to the difficulty in tracking such cases?</p>

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Buddy	Payne	Covid Response	<p>My neighbor is a teacher. She is a little too young for Medicare, and is in DROP. She is also high risk for COVID. She told me she had applied to teach in a program called iFlagler, which was not face-to-face when she applied. She did not want to retire early because she felt she had a lot more to offer, even if it was through a computer. She told me that you made iFlagler face-to-face. She also told me about your early retirement offer that was withdrawn before iFlagler was made face-to-face. I think if she had known it was going to be face-to-face, she would have retired. Her pension isn't huge and paying for COBRA is more than she would get from Social Security. I am worried about her. She is actually considering going without insurance at all and during a pandemic, I just don't like that. Is there a way you can extend the early retirement with insurance offer so she can feel safe?</p>
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