

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

Anglea	Biggs	Accommodation for teaching position	<p>If I (a Flagler county) teacher, have a medical condition that makes me very scared/concerned about getting Covid-19 will I be allowed to do virtual teaching with my art classes? As a 15 year veteran teacher, if I am not given this option then will the school district provide/help me with another district employment option that greatly limits personal contact with others until there is a safe vaccine?</p>
D	Beck	FCSB reopening schools	<p>We are putting the whole community at risk by reopening schools. Teachers don't feel safe. Most parents said in a survey that they're "very concerned" about sending their kids back to school. So why are we taking a chance on opening when we have the ability to do virtual school? This district isn't ready to open. We can't afford to have teachers, staff, and students to become seriously ill, or sadly, lose their lives. We need for our school board and the administration to consider the real risks of opening up our schools in the midst of a raging pandemic.</p>
Kristin	Greenhalgh	School reopening	<p>Our community is expressing their, very valid, questions and concerns about opening f2f schools based on data and facts and a board member found time during the last FCSB meeting to express false claims in an attempt to downplay this virus. You should be looking at PROVEN data and facts NOT a gathering of conservative "doctors" who have no documented data to back up their claims! By referring to false information and blatantly disregarding and ignoring what Bickel has already said about herd immunity leaves me to question where the schoolboards interest's lie. Bickel said "Herd immunity—when enough people have developed immunity to a disease that it cannot propagate efficiently anymore—is believed to kick in at around 60 to 70-percent, or at 200 million people. Even at a 0.5-percent death rate for those infected, "that's a million people. Are we prepared to let that happen?" As a parent of 6 children and someone who cares about HUMANITY, I'm NOT prepared to let that happen. The FCSB should not LET the school opening be the reason it happens! If you have no measurement from the state or federal officials for when it is safe to return to school & If you don't know how to define a cluster & If it is impossible to guarantee that EVERYONE will comply with all necessary safety protocols & If our children, school employees and community are at risk with our lives at ALL, SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT OPEN! I have'nt choose an option for ANY of my children. The schools don't even know what is being offered. How can I make an informed decision without all the information? My children will lose their spots in programs they have participated in for years if I chose to keep them home! Why do my children get penalized because I chose to protect my family and others? You should be working on a plan to go virtual and focus on any issues regarding that and resolve them! It's not a question of IF schools will close after reopening, that's inevitable. We've seen many news articles and countless reports of it happening now! How many lives will be lost and how many people will become ill and possibly have lifelong health complications because of the negligent decision to</p>

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			open schools! Please keep f2f closed and our community safe!
Cheryl	Little	School starting	You cannot guarantee our children's safety. You say you cannot mandate masks, how will you prevent the spread of covid throughout the schools? You cannot. The numbers are still rising. It is ludicrous to put our entire community at risk by herding the kids back into the petri dishes that are our public schools.
Sebrina	Robinson	REOPENING FLAGLER COUNTY SCHOOLS	<p>With all the examples of what has happened when other counties have tried to open schools, and all the DEATHS and INFECTED TEACHERS, bus drivers, parents of kids that brought it home; I really don't even understand trying to bring TEACHERS, staff and our CHILDREN into SCHOOLS. It will happen here. Especially when FLORIDA is such a hot spot for the virus.</p> <p>The only SAFE WAY TO REOPEN SCHOOLS is to offer virtual classes ONLY, and try to resolve the issues associated with that. And children should not be penalized or lose their places in classes (i.e DREAMS, ROTC, FIRE ACADEMY, MEDICAL PROGRAM) because they choose VIRTUAL CLASSES over in person classes. Flagship programs should allow children attending school virtually to have the hands on training portion of the class in the summer, and the academic portion be VIRTUAL during the school year.</p> <p>You keep saying a virtual plan needs to be approved by the state, has one been submitted for approval by you? Have you even tried? Other counties have been successful with state approval. There has to be a better and safer plan for our county schools.</p>
Thomas	Gillin	Reopening schools	How many students will be in a face to face classroom? Are we at class size amendment limits at some schools for the Face to Face classes? Is that safe enough? Why are the K-2 students not required to wear masks? If K-2 students are not wearing masks then how is the classroom teacher protected? What will happen if an older student refuses to wear a mask at any grade level? Will there be plexiglass around the teacher's work space? What are you doing to protect the staff that are enclosed in classrooms for 5+ hours a day? How many students will be in the lunchroom at one time? How will it be safe for a teacher to have lunch duty in a crowded lunchroom? Who is monitoring the lunch bathrooms? Will the classroom bathrooms be disinfected more than once a day? What are you doing to make it safe for your teachers and staff? Do you truly believe brick and mortar schools are safe for all? Do you truly believe there will be no deaths in our district with this model? Who is taking the responsibility for the spread of this virus in our schools? Why are we not trying to get waivers like other districts and open up virtually or slowly on a hybrid model?
Brittnee	Gummere	Opening schools	How is the school board prepared to help the families in Flagler county that wish to choose virtual schooling for their children to keep them safe but do not have access to reliable broadband internet? How do you intend to provide

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Jodi	Kistler	Opening schools	<p>What is to be done about liability for staff who become ill, who transmit to students? Is attendance and employment hitched to waivers?</p>
			<p>As you contemplate a return to school, please think about your own families. If any of you had to be in a classroom or on a campus full of children every day, what might that mean for your family? Do you have immune compromised relatives in the home? A child or grandchild with asthma? Do you have parents over 70 that are vulnerable? How long might you have to isolate yourself from parents? From young grandchildren? Pregnant daughters or daughters in law?</p> <p>These concerns are keeping your educators, your bus drivers and your school staff members awake at night. They are shopping for gas masks, face shields and scrubs. They are afraid they will get sick. They are afraid they will have to help their students through deeply traumatic losses of loved ones, favorite teachers and friends.</p> <p>You have a choice today. You can help lift this burden or you can accept that when Covid strikes your employees and students, when debilitating side effects have lifelong impacts, when the illness inevitably spreads throughout families, when people die, you will have blood on your hands and a community that will not let you forget that you are responsible for suffering that is not necessary.</p>
Kendall	Clark	Return to School	
Sabine	Kurz	Safe return to school	<p>What is being done to insure staffer safety? Will staffers receive hazard pay? Have you considered the financial fall out if a staffer gets infected and infects other family members. Have you considered that staffers have children that might get infected from their parent because of school opening. Will masks be mandatory by all staffers? What tools are being given to staffers to ensure a sterile environment or do they need to forage for their own? Will the school district accept responsibility for infected staffers?</p>
Brielle	Goldberg	School reopening	<p>What happens when teachers/staff get sick during the 2 weeks of training before students come back? Will they get paid for missing work/training? Will the impact of covid-19 on staff on campus alone be considered before allowing students on campus?</p>
Ellen	Jones	Opening Schools	<p>Dear School Board, The question about what school is going to like this fall is huge. In-person education is doubtless the best option for almost all students and teachers. However, lives are more important than education. Medical professionals and statistics clearly indicate that more people together leads to</p>

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		<p>more infections. A recent study has shown that up to 75% of people who had COVID-19 and recovered have lasting damage to their hearts. We focus on data in schools and emphasize the importance of data-driven decision making when it comes to education, yet the district is not using data to decide on people's lives. If we reopen for in-person schooling before it is safe, students, teachers, staff, and family members will get sick. This is not a guess, this is a statement. Some will die. Some will have lifelong damage to their bodies. Many will suffer emotional and mental pain from seeing friends, teachers, and family become sick. One person dying as a result of schools reopening is unacceptable.</p> <p>The debate between opening schools for in-person instruction and keeping them closed for online instruction is not being framed correctly. Schools do not only provide education; they provide food, counseling, discipline, social services, relationships, and much more to students. They also provide childcare for working parents. This is the main reason why people want schools to open for in-person instruction. The other aspects can be provided with online instruction (food will still be provided at school sites), though admittedly with some difficulties. The childcare aspect cannot. Teachers, however, are not babysitters. The primary task of a teacher is to educate students. The secondary task is to keep them safe. Opening schools for in-person instruction during a pandemic is not keeping students safe. Teachers can educate students virtually. Our school district and local programs should work to provide childcare options in a safe manner for parents who need it. Separate the services that schools provide. Do not open schools for in-person classes because parents need childcare. Education can happen without a building. Thank you.</p>
Anette	Sakaran	<p>Safe return to school</p> <p>If it is safe to return to crowded schools, which are not able to follow the correct CDC guidelines, will the board be helping in the school cafeterias, participating in helping younger students find their way to classes on the first weeks of school? If some elementary schools have lower face to face enrollment than other schools, will schools with lower classroom numbers send teachers to minimize the classrooms that are at or above class size amendment? For example one school averages 12-14 per class bit another school is sitting at 22 kids per class. What will you do to keep class sizes even across the district? How will discipline with keeping masks on students be handled? If the same students refuse to wear a mask and keep socially distanced, how will the district handle that? That child is putting his teachers and peers at risk. This is a serious life or death situation. This question needs priority. How are kids in the cluster program being handled when they run around the halls, lay down and kick, spit and put other students at risk? Are schools really safe to open?</p>

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Ellen	Jones	Opening Schools	Our country's leading expert on the pandemic, Dr. Fauci, has come out saying that schools should reopen in person for two major reasons: the psychological and social benefits, and parents having to dramatically modify their work schedules to accommodate having their children at home. The psychological and social benefits to having students in physical school are undeniable, but physical health is also extremely important. Testing - with quick turnaround for results - and contact tracing are necessary for a safe school opening, and neither of these requirements are part of Flagler's opening plans. Imagine the psychological damage children can have when their friends, teachers, and parents become sick because schools have reopened without the proper measures in place. We need to radically rethink how to provide psychological and social services to students without having schools open for traditional instruction. There are ways that childcare can be provided so parents can work without worrying about their children. Think outside of the box and consider the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and families. This is an opportunity for our district to be a leader in innovative solutions to unprecedented problems.
Mella	Baxter	No contact-free options for teachers	Why do all of the options for teachers involve in person, face to face contact with students? High School iFlagler teachers will have to do in-person tutoring with students in the labs at the high schools, which typically have 30+ students in the room. High School remote teachers could have no students, a reduced class size, or a full class of students in the room depending on need. Why are there NO options for immune-compromised teachers or those who have immune-compromised family members they take care of?
Fred	George	Opening schools	For the sake of potential tracking of the virus, does it make sense to open neighborhood pods over grade level pods?
Penny	Atkinson	Opening schools	There are no concrete plans about how the schools are going to be safe for all concerned. What is the comprehensive plan for safety and school closure? For example, what is considered a cluster? (need specifics)
Gianna	Burke	Opening schools safely	How are schools going to open safely if not all students are required to wear masks? What will happen to students and teachers in classes that are at full capacity and it is impossible to distance the students six feet apart? What will happen to students who get put in a full classroom where the desks are not able to be placed six feet apart and those students are in an age group where the others around them are not required to wear masks? How can you say teachers and students will be safe in a small classroom with a large amount of students who are not wearing masks? How can you guarantee the safety of students and staff in the cafeteria where a large amount of people will be in close contact with one another? What happens if a student is misbehaving by not wearing their mask and purposely putting others in danger by touching or coughing on other

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			<p>students and staff? How can you guarantee that your students or staff will be kept safe around a misbehaving child? Will someone be sanitizing the bathrooms and desks after each use? If bathrooms are not being sanitized after each use, how can you guarantee they will be safe to use? How will children and bus drivers be safe on a bus with a lot of children in close quarters with each other? What happens on a rainy day when the bus windows are closed and the virus gets circulated in the air throughout the entire bus? Is the district ready to be held accountable when a number of students or staff members inevitably get sick? What about when children and staff die? If even some of these questions can't be answered with actual plans that will guarantee the safety of students and staff, how can you say it is safe to open schools at this time?</p>
Barbara	Kistler	Opening schools	<p>According to the Flagler Schools website, our school system is home to 13,000 students, and 2,500 employees. That is a total of 15,500 people in our school system. According to the CDC, the positivity rate is approximately 2%, while the death rates ranges from 1-4% of those who test positive.</p> <p>Using these numbers, approximately 310 employees or students will test positive, and 3 employees or students will die.</p> <p>If we assume that each student and employee interacts closely with 2 people (parents, grandparents, children, spouse, siblings, etc) Daily, then we can assume that an additional 620 positive tests, and 6 deaths will occur. Which 3 students or employees are you ok with dying? And what 6 additional members of the community are you ok with dying?</p> <p>People are not statistics, people are not numbers.</p>
Ed	Kissenberg	Opening schools	<p>With it so difficult to find cleaning supplies (Lysol spray, Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, etc) will teachers be able to count on being supplied these resources? What cleaning supplies in what quantity will teachers be provided? If cleaning supplies becomes scarce or non existent, what steps will the school take to fix that?</p>
Amanda	Louise	Opening schools	<p>What are the safety measures that will take place in the K-2 classrooms or on busses since masks are not required in K-2?</p> <p>How will you keep the staff safe in settings without students wearing masks?</p> <p>Are water fountains in classrooms and hallways still being used? If so, why?</p> <p>Why is there no warm or hot water at sinks? How often will students need to wash hands? Who is watching students in the lunchrooms? How many adults/employees will be responsible for observing the children during lunch? How many students will be in the lunchroom at one time? Will a teacher be forced to be exposed to more students at lunch and recess than just her class?</p>
EA	Michaels	Return to school	<p>In the coming weeks, our children and their teachers will be returning to schools. These schools are, in the best of</p>

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			<p>times, underfunded. Yet we are sending them back to "make it work" in a life and sometimes death situation. How are we providing protection for them? How can they social distance when their classrooms are not large enough? A health crisis is occurring in our world and we are putting children's lives at stake. We are putting teachers' lives at stake. We are putting families' lives at stake. This is something that we have control over. This is a situation that we can prevent. We can't always protect our children. We can protect them now by keeping them home and starting the year virtually. Please consider the health and safety of our families.</p>
Matt	Rupp	Reopening of schools	<p>It is my understanding that teachers are supposed to be given the opportunity to work remotely, according to our Governor of FL. Just as parents are given a choice as to what format they feel safest with, teachers should be afforded the same option. What option do teachers have to instruct students remotely? With all 3 options, it seems that teachers are required to be in a school building (definitely not a remote location). What is Flagler County's definition of remote instruction? Thank you.</p>
Paul	Jackson	Opening schools	<p>Are teachers allowed to create partitions, to create a barrier? ie curtains, plexiglass, etc Can teachers teach from inside their offices? Can teachers take classes outside for additional social distancing and fresh air? Stadium, courtyard, etc When can a teacher go to the bathroom without crowded hallways? Are teachers going to be required to do hallway duty between class period? If a teacher has a blended classroom, are we allowed to divide time between live and virtual students? Are teachers still going to be required to have grades updated each week by Monday morning?</p>
Charlotte	Bradley	Opening school without being prepared	<p>In 20 days, out County is scheduled to open all our schools to students. There have been schools that have already done this with bad results. I want nothing more than to return to school with my students in a safe environment. I heard a news anchor this week saying that her children will be returning to school in September and that she will be scared to check her email in case she has a message from the school saying that someone tested positive and they are closing the school. The frightening thing is if a student in Flagler county tests positive then I have been told that only the immediate students (3-4) around that student would be required to quarantine for 14 days. The reason being that these would be the students who had contact with the student who tested positive for more than 15 minutes. And then the class and teacher would be relocated to a different classroom. I truly hope that people stop and think about this before putting this into practice. You simply can not be rolling the dice with people's lives!</p>