

Audience to Public

To the Syosset Board of Educations and Syosset Administration,

I am writing because I am very concerned about the possibility that in September school will become part-time/ staggered day hybrid-model or worse yet not open at all.

Remote learning has set so many children back – for some they may never recover from the social, educational, physical and emotional effects of not going back to school every day, ALL day.

We have to learn to live with this virus, social distancing and keeping children home is not a realistic plan for the unforeseeable future.

Forcing our children into isolation over the past few months has created many unintended consequences on the mental, social, physical and emotional wellbeing of our students.

For years, teachers, pediatricians, and childhood experts have warned about the dangers of excessive screen time. This cannot continue. Under Cuomo's own admittance in April's daily briefings, he has stated that in hindsight, "closing the schools and locking students down at home was not the best decision." In late May, he declared that 550 out of the 700 districts in NY state would not have voted to remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

As a parent and community member, I implore you to demand guidelines that are based on science, realistic, and consistent with common sense. Our children need to be in school; not for a half day or alternate day, but for the full standard school day. Each child has a different need for why in person education is imperative. Some children require special educational services (speech, OT, PT, etc.), while other students need the social aspect, some rely on meal services, while some need emotional support, or just an environment to thrive and learn outside the confines of their own home. "Re-imagine education" is not working.

Some points I hope you are considering:

- Many adults cannot go back to work if their children are not at school (and part time does not work). This creates an unsafe and stressful situation for parents and children.
- Remote learning may have filled a gap as a temporary solution – it is NO substitute for a classroom experience. Children need interaction and live in person instruction- daily.
- Coronavirus mostly threatens the elderly and vulnerable – children should be taught to wash their hands at school and then when they get home before they greet family members. Vulnerable teachers and staff should be given other work opportunities. Sick and compromised children can utilize the remote learning. Children who are sick should stay home. Children who are healthy should physically be in school.
- The instances of Kawasaki like inflammatory syndrome are no excuse for a total stall of learning for millions of schoolchildren in the state – this unfortunately can happen and does happen during other flu seasons – school is not shut down. My pediatrician is not concerned and neither am I. Fortunately it is very RARE with obvious symptoms and is treatable.
- Many parents discover children need reading glasses or hearing aids in school. Teachers can watch for this- they can't do it on a computer.
- Obesity due to lack of exercise will worsen. Depression will increase.

The push for getting back into the school building normally the fall is essential and will have to come from the parents, educators, administrators, community members, board members and elected officials working as a united team.

I hope we can work together to make this happen

Thank you and I hope you have a nice summer,
Felisa Wyman
I have 2 children, 1 in SHS and 1 in SWMS

Members of the Board,

I was planning to speak tonight at the Audience to the Public segment of the board meeting but was just alerted that there will be no live in person opportunity to speak and therefore would appreciate my comments be read into the record out loud during the Audience to the Public part of the meeting. I am aware that comments were to be submitted by 4pm on 7/6 but given the last minute cancellation of the in-person meeting, I would assume that an exception could be made for residents that were planning to attend the in-person meeting.

Thank you,
Glenn Vogelman

Members of the Board, my name is Glenn Vogelman and I reside in Woodbury, NY. I am writing the board in lieu of an in person meeting during the Audience to the Public section of a typical board meeting given there is no live meeting as a result of COVID19.

I would like to address 3 items that are on the minds of many residents within the Syosset School district:

(#1) I am asking the board to put up for review the current school district policy as it relates to class size for K-5. I am aware that the school district current policy states that K-3 has a max class size of 25 children and a 27 max class size for grades 4 and 5. There are many challenges that we as parents and teachers are currently working through and we do not need to introduce another variable into the equation that may further complicate and potentially damage the learning experience of our youngest minds. **Given the extenuating circumstances we find ourselves in, I am writing to ask the board to place this policy under review (<https://www.syossetschools.org/domain/119>) before any final determinations are made about Fall 2020 class sizes. This will give the board ample time to have the administration research and assist the board in coming to a sound conclusion that takes into account the current challenging circumstances that all of our students are dealing with.**

Now more than ever before our children need more individualized attention for their social and emotional well being, which will be difficult with larger class sizes. It will be difficult enough if we can resume school as normal this fall, and I fear even more so what the larger class size will mean if school continues to look "different" in September. After speaking with many parents across the district, we are seeing a global change in our children's behavior that may not be readily visible to the administration. Our children are being forced into a situation that may change their abilities to learn and communicate

effectively. In many cases, this may not be readily visible to us as parents/administrators/teachers today, but will become visible down the road when it will be too late or more difficult to course correct.

I know it is our collective priority as a community to ensure that our children continue to get the education and support they deserve. We know that Syosset continues to be a leading district because you value the experience for our children and our staff as well.

(#2) - Do our administrators including our principal's in each school currently have online access to log into any live class that is being taught? While I am certainly not an educator, I do know from my experience in the business world that getting feedback on my strengths and weaknesses has helped me to improve and excel throughout my career. I would think that in an "online world" this would absolutely be a critical tool in order for the teachers to be given the necessary feedback that I would think could help each of them improve as we move into the "new normal".

(#3) - As it relates to feedback on our initial foray into online learning and the "new normal", I wanted to see if using the same "word cloud" survey product that was used by the district to get feedback on the school start time changes that are currently being contemplated. While I am sure the board received both positive and negative feedback via email and phone calls, I would think a broader campaign to solicit all feedback from our parents in a simple and easy to digest format would be worthwhile. Personally, I found the feedback from the school start time exercise as very helpful and would request a similar tool be pushed out to the community as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing your responses.

Good Evening. My name is Leslie Won. I reside in Woodbury, NY.

1- A couple of months ago I learned the fourth grade class at Walt Whitman will not have an Integrated Co-Teaching Class (ICT) for this upcoming 2020/21 school year. Is this consistent throughout all of the elementary fourth grade classes? If not, how was this determined of what grade/ school would receive this instructional model?

2- Knowing that we are unsure what September will look like, how are the teachers preparing and training for a potential year, month, or months of online learning?

3 - I am asking the Board to revisit their class size policy due to COVID-19 .

Having 25 students in one class is too many students for teachers to educate our students effectively.

4- If it's not by keeping our class sizes currently, specifically the Walt Whitman fourth grade, may I ask how the students will receive the support they deserve and need now more than ever?

We understand September will look different than previous years and there will be different protocols and procedures. We understand that there will potentially be less

children present at one time with one teacher due to state guidelines. But with certainty, smaller classes are smaller classes no matter how it is presented.

Kevin McKenna
3 Edna Dr
Syosset, NY 11791

Attn: SYOSSET Board of Education,

Please read aloud the following correspondence. In regard to the SYosset 150 Miller Place and 305 Robbins Lane properties I ask the following:

1. At your last meeting you discussed sending letters to SYosset Park LLC, the Town of Oyster Bay and DEC possibly.
WHAT WAS YOUR DECISION. Who did you send correspondence to and can you read the letters aloud at tonight's meeting?

2. I have sent you all an email regarding the Sickout Data which I received via Freedom of Information from your Foil Officer. I have provided the Entire Board with that DATA you sent me. I have asked what your experts opinion is on that DATA comparing South Grove Elementary and Village School. To date , I have received No Reply. Can you Opine on this for the Public's knowledge and for the District " to act out of AN ABUNDANCE of CAUTION "?

Look forward to tonight's livestream to hear this read aloud and a response.

Response: We looked at the number of absences on a per pupil and per staff person basis and found the two buildings to be very comparable.