

NAME	MESSAGE
Annette Henrie	<p data-bbox="623 233 827 259">Hello Ms. Gibney,</p> <p data-bbox="623 293 1770 436">My name is Annette Henrie. I have one daughter that remains in the ETSD out of our 4 children, and she has some learning disabilities. Virtual instruction is very challenging for her. Trying to focus and process is incredibly difficult, and is requiring much more support (about 3x as much as normal) and has already in these first few weeks necessitated an emergent IEP meeting, as well as several email and phone conversations to try to help her. We are barely keeping her head above the water.</p> <p data-bbox="623 470 1770 557">While health and safety are important, the school district has already applied for and spent money to provide the necessary precautions to return to school, per Mr.Campbell's video in August. Other districts in Berks have successfully returned to in-person learning.</p> <p data-bbox="623 591 1770 677">Our daughter is not the only student struggling with this mandated change to learning. Per the Exeter Township Moms and Dads Facebook page, there are many families who are crashing under this current situation.</p> <p data-bbox="623 711 1675 737">Virtual learning comes with many struggles, but for our family, these are the most pervasive:</p> <p data-bbox="623 771 1791 914">1) Virtual exhaustion: While video calls are limited to every other period for high school, ALL work--synchronous and asynchronous--are on the Chromebook. Homework is on the Chromebook. When I say our daughter is on her Chromebook from 8:30 am until 8pm with few breaks (like maybe an hour total for food), this is not an outlier, but a daily consistent. Eye strain, headaches, and burnout are also consistent.</p> <p data-bbox="623 948 1791 1268">2) Time to complete asynchronous learning can be grossly underestimated. 40 minutes should be the most asynchronous learning should take for a given class period. This is not the case with several of my daughter's classes. Many days, this learning is much past that time frame; easily double it. Because students are not in a physical classroom, a teacher cannot see that the assignment time estimated is not what they anticipated. This work gets pushed out to homework time, on TOP of the homework given. In addition, with asynchronous work, students are expected to teach themselves. This has proved unsuccessful in our household, especially when my daughter needs to talk to the teacher and often has to email them for clarity, pushing the work even further out into the day because the teachers aren't capable of getting back to them in the moment. That's not a problem with the teacher, but just another example of how virtual learning is creating problems that aren't normally there.</p> <p data-bbox="623 1302 1770 1388">3) Virtual learning is challenging both for the teacher and the student. Keeping students engaged and focused is hard enough, but adding in technical difficulties, glitches, and the inability to hear properly adds more to the challenge.</p> <p data-bbox="623 1422 1791 1596">4) Work online takes longer. Normally, students have books, papers, and other external things to reference while doing work. When everything is on the Chromebook (textbook, documents, slides), this takes twice as long to complete an assignment because they have to toggle back and forth between the screen tabs to read something, remember it, and record their answer. This is frustrating for a normal student, but when you have a student with processing and memorization disabilities, it becomes not only painful, but frustrating and time consuming.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Laurie Waraksa	<p>We need to get these kids back into schools somehow. Even if it for the 1/2 day. I have 1 child who is doing great and the other is struggling. They need live instruction. I would like to have a choice. Other districts gave the option. We didn't have a choice. Second email - Here is the face of a kid who needs to be in school. This learning platform isn't working for him. Please get these kids in the classes he needs. This is crazy. A child crying everyday over school work.</p>
Amanda Hart	<p>Hi— Wanted to share my thoughts/comments for discussion at the curriculum meeting. Has there been thought given to how discriminatory a half day five day a week plan is against children of working parents? It is not feasible for all parents to arrange child care for half days. It has felt during this entire pandemic like there has been a lack of consideration for families with two working parents—from picking up supplies and chrome books to picking up medications, to bringing in computers for service. It has been very stressful to need to make special arrangements every time because all of these events are centered around working hours. In fact, to bring the chrome book in for service, my daughter had to miss school because we were only given the option to deliver it during class hours. My daughter is very sad she is not in school and wishes she could be in person making new friends, but my husband and I will likely be forced to keep her entirely virtual by the school district making plans that do not work for our families. Thank you, Amanda</p>
A. Grady	<p>Will they be wearing mask the whole time they are there. Also what if you have parents that are still concerned with sending there child to school can they choose for the child to stay virtual learning.</p>
Krystal DiGuardi	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>For the board meeting discussing the potential reentry plan for students, I do have a question. Although I believe students should return full time, I understand that the superintendent doesn't care at all about the burden she placed on families, nor will she admit to the apparent disadvantage to the quality of education her plan is currently carrying out. She thought she was being helpful, I suppose, by having BCIU come in to have a childcare option for parents (that can afford it). Will that childcare option remain available? If it is only on a half day basis rather than a full day, will the cost be reduced to half or even at all?</p> <p>I appreciate this being included in the topics discussed at the board meeting on Tuesday. Thank you.</p> <p>Krystal DiGuardi</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Tracy Lis	<p>MaryAnn,</p> <p>I would like to have a question/comment submitted for the Curriculum Committee of Board Meeting. As a parent of district children I have a concern about the AM/PM return to school. My main concern, which I share with other parents is that there is not sufficient time to sanitize between the morning and afternoon groups. A more feasible way would be to have "group a" attend Monday and Tuesday - have Wednesday be a Virtual day (for cleaning at the schools) and then have "group b" attend Thursday and Friday with the weekend being used for cleaning. Also AM/PM splitting would cause day care nightmares for alot of working parents.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tracy Lis</p>
Timothy Redding	<p>I would like it to be known that our family covers every level within the Exeter School District: elementary, middle school, junior high school, and high school. Your decisions highly effects the safety and care of our entire family. As we also care for elderly family members, contact tracing is an important topic for us. What is the contact tracing/quarentine plan for district families whom span multiple buildings? Since my wife teaches in the district, how would your quarentine rules apply to her entire roster in this case? It seems as though this domino effect would be hard to avoid with other families as well.</p> <p>Mr. Timothy Redding M.S., MEd.</p>
kendra cituk	<p>If the district does not re enter the building, what is the plan to assess how well the kids are adapting and learning the material. Right now, my kindergarteners are on line 2 hours and 15 minutes in a live session. That is not enough time for their teacher to assess them and determine if they are even understanding the material. The kids are muted all day with brief intervals of chatter that is not material related. The videos they are expected to watch later are 3 minutes in length and have no real educational value. My children are disengaged, repeatedly remark how boring it is to just watch someone perform and talk baby talk at them. We have no guidance on use of the additional apps or when the kids are to use them. We do not have the ability to prepare for the next day and scramble around in the moment to find the material that is being discussed. Which wastes time and then by the time material is located, the class has moved on to something else. There needs to be more structure, guidance and meaningful 2 way interaction between the teacher and the students. These are not college students who can learn independently, these are kindergarten children who need the support and structure of the classroom.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Amanda Sauer	<p>My question for the school board, as a resident, a parent, a mom and a nurse. I don't see how you could consider reopening quarter 2 for these kids during flu season especially. Do you not understand what this means for these kids when they get sick? It's going to be a million times worse. Wait until Quarter 3. Little kids and especially special needs ones are not good with a wearing a mask. Regardless, how much this may be the new normal.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amanda Sauer</p>
Douglas Faber	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would like to let you know our concerns regarding virtual school. The children need to be back in school full time with the option of virtual. The children aren't receiving the proper education that is detrimental for their future, especially the elementary children and the IEP kids. The elementary children are at a critical age for learning and aren't able to stay focused at home or have the one on one like being in school gives.</p> <p>If Exeter feels comfortable with children playing sports in close proximity with safety precautions in place then the same can be done regarding getting these kids back into school.</p> <p>Schuylkill Valley and Oley Valley are returning to in school full time learning on Monday. Hamburg Area school started their year out full time and there hasn't been any issues reported.</p> <p>We are sending this email before Tuesday's meeting to voice our concerns regarding virtual learning not working and that the children need to be more structured and focused by returning back to full time in person instruction.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Douglas Faber</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Kelly Rismiller</p>	<p>Thank you so much for inviting Exeter families to submit questions before this week's first Curriculum meeting.</p> <p>I wonder if it might be helpful if you could publicly answer some of the thoughts behind the elementary and secondary brick and mortar potential scenarios. Here are some specific questions I believe many parents, including ourselves, are asking:</p> <p>What are the reasons and rationale for the in person options presented both at the elementary and secondary schools?</p> <p>What are the academic advantages to students in regards to these options; and, what are the advantages of these options versus the models other neighboring school districts implemented?</p> <p>At the secondary level, how will the students benefit from teachers instructing on Zoom (with masks on), while in the building, simultaneously overseeing in person students?</p> <p>What are the in person school hours at the elementary schools, for AM and PM options?</p> <p>What are the in-person school hours at the secondary schools?</p> <p>If staffing is hindering the ability to offer in person instruction at both the elementary and secondary schools, how can the district, and the community, help?</p> <p>Are these in person options anticipated to remain in effect for the entire school year, or is the goal to add more in person synchronous times after the second quarter, if possible?</p> <p>I'd be happy to talk to you about any of these questions in person, or via zoom, if you are interested.</p> <p>As a marketing and public relations professional, having previously worked in this position for the Governor Mifflin School District, I definitely understand the challenges of communicating thoughts, ideas, and strategies to families!</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Kelly & Terry Rismiller (Charlotte - Grade 9; Madelyn - Grade 7; William - Grade 2)</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Stacy Halbeinsen	<p>My name is Stacy and my son attends Lorane Elem. He is in 2nd grade. I just wanted to reach out and express my feelings during this strange time. First off I'd like you to know I am a very open person I believe in lifting people up I believe in supporting one another. I have not "complained" about my son being virtual. I made so many sacrifices and spent nights crying and fighting to figure out what I was going to do as a working parent, but we figured it out. I appreciate all the time and work put into creating a better online curriculum and haven't had any major issues or concerns with how my son has to learn virtually. My son is extremely bright and just an overall great kid but he is suffering. He needs to be in person he needs that direct connection and socialization. I myself am the same way. The initial plans for a return are not ideal to say the least. Our family is split and my son shares his time evenly between myself and his dad. The kids need to be back in school full time or some kind of a hybrid that has them more in person than not. Splitting the day is just not a great option. I will possibly be faced with my ex husband trying to remove my son from Exeter SD which could be court time which we have avoided for the past 5 years since our divorce. This decision involves so so so much more and I know everyone has their own story and concerns but this could wreak havoc in homes and cause turmoil for families. Please please please seriously consider sending the kids back in person and full time. I know reaching out to other schools is a way for decisions to be made but why not reach out to pediatricians and any other outlets to get a real grasp on this. Other schools who are back full time have had issues with exposures but they handled and got right back to it. This is our new normal and our new reality we have to move forward not backward. The thought of having to fight with my family over my sons future and whether he can stay at Exeter has cost me many nights of lost sleep. I have worked very hard and fought to keep my son at Exeter because this is my hometown and a great school district with plenty of opportunity for my son. Please make this decision based on majority and not minority. The virtual option will always be there for the families able and willing to keep their kids home. Our children need each other and they need their teachers. Thank you for your time and for your considerations and all the hard work going into making this hard decision. We have to move on and move forward. Lets get these young minds back on track and back into the new normal, it's the right thing to do.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Sheri Wasik	<p>Hello. My name is Sheri Wasik and my daughter is Addisyn Wasik and is currently in reiffon school in 6th grade.</p> <p>I will be at work during this meeting but will try to watch the recording!!</p> <p>I would love for her to get back to school. However this 1/2day schedule gives me multiple concerns. How will this effect the schedule that is currently in play? We've been at this now for 7weeks about and we're in a great routine of which classes are when. I'm concerned being only 1/2 days this will definitely interrupt the schedule in place being as the main concern is to fully focus on math and reading while actually in person.</p> <p>I'm just not fully understanding how this plan will work. I also could not submit my respond to the survey via email bc it would not work.</p> <p>My main concern is now how far behind Exeter school district is as far as getting our children back to "normal " life. This is about education for sure, but it's also about the psychological aspect of these children! I know first hand how different it is being that I went back to work after 101 days of being home and having to wear a mask as I am a hair stylist and come into contact with people. We follow guidelines and have no issues and are in Exeter township!</p> <p>As a community we are doing it, so why as a school district are we not? My child is suffering not being around kids, not being able to communicate the same way with her teachers/ peers! Pre teens are already having the hardest time in their lives with this transitional time period, hormonal, physical and emotional and now COVID-19!!!</p> <p>If we're discussing the plan for education, we should be doing so as to not interfere with the schedule that's in place as much as possible and transition these kids back as smoothly and quickly as possible!</p> <p>Also a side note: how is this bussing system going to work?? This is just a lot for parents to have to worry about and it's oct 5!!! We don't have much time until it's suppose to be effective!!!!</p> <p>Thanks for your time</p> <p>Sheri wasik</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Leigh Anne Gatto	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>While for many students working virtually at home is a comparable alternative and safe alternative to going to school, the special needs population desperately needs to be in school where they can receive full support and instruction from their many professional educators.</p> <p>Although we voiced our concerns at the beginning of the school closing, nothing changed. We are very disappointed that families with special needs students were not given an alternate choice other than full virtual education.</p> <p>While the professional educators have done their best to reach out via an online platform, the district has failed to meet the needs of their special needs children.</p> <p>Going back to school part-time will not be acceptable. Exeter Township School District's special needs population needs to go back full-time ASAP.</p> <p>I am a mother of three current students and one graduate. I am a teacher currently teaching in-person. I am the mother of one special needs child who desperately needs to be back full time to support academic, behavioral and emotional learning.</p> <p>I am pleading with you to not fail my child and open up full-time, in-person instruction for your most vulnerable population.</p> <p>Respectfully, Leigh Anne Gatto</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Christopher Jordan	<p>While I do not 100% agree with the 1/2 day plan or the timeline being proposed this evening, it is a step in the right direction. Students and staff should be back full-time with the appropriate safety measures in place now. The metrics being used by the Exeter administration are guidelines, with recommendations. Many school districts locally and across the country are forging ahead with in person education safely and successfully.</p> <p>Please open our schools safely for the option of in-person instruction. The Exeter schools should have opened and residents given the option for in-person instruction since day one of the school year, but since the decision was made to allow for virtual education only, it is now imperative that we move forward with in-person instruction as soon as possible and at minimum the beginning of the 2nd marking period. Exeter should not even have to wait for the 2nd marking period to start providing the option for in person instruction.</p> <p>The students need to be in the classroom and the teachers need to be teaching in person. If parents do not feel comfortable, they can choose the virtual option for their children. If teachers do not feel comfortable, they can choose to take FMLA or a leave of absence. Exeter needs to move forward with the option for in-person education and stop fully catering to the few that don't feel comfortable.</p> <p>Please open the schools for in person education!</p> <p>-- Thanks, Chris Jordan 42 Glen Oley Drive</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Danielle Myers	<p>Dear School board,</p> <p>I am concerned with the plan you are looking at implementing for q2 and beyond. It is a great disservice to the kids not to go back full time or at least 2 full days a week. This half day in person does not work, Mifflin is doing it and the kids are not learning anything in their time at home and I have several relatives who can come before you to express the lack of Education the student are reviving in Mifflin.</p> <p>You say our administration are the experts and know but they do not since this is new to everyone and the kids are going to be the ones hurt and lacking in the long run.</p> <p>I have a fifth and eighth grader who everyday ask when they can go back they need more of a challenge and stimulation instead of the dumbing down we are doing to our kids.</p> <p>I took my kids out of private school to go to Exter for the great learning that was provided to me as a child growing up in the Exeter School District. The Private Schools are in person 5 days and some are 2 days but they understand the value of being with peers and the effect it has on learn. Did I make a mistake taking my kids out of The Private School situation?</p> <p>If we can play football and have 2 rounds of covid and still play, plus the amount of time people spent at the pool, shopping and on vacations this summer the kids can go to school to learn.</p> <p>Thank you Let's do right by our children Danielle Myers</p>
Scott Pegler	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My son Max Pegler is in 4th grade at Lorane. Please consider the elementary school children going back full time in person. They need to be back in school. My son is not getting the education he should.</p> <p>Thank You, Scott Pegler</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Allison Grove	<p>Hello Exeter School Board members! I hope each of you and your families are healthy and well.</p> <p>I wanted to reach out about return to school after the 1st quarter. We have two Exeter students, my son is in 3rd grade @ Lorane and my daughter is in 6th grade @ Reiffton. I realize their teachers (and us as parents) have been doing the best they can in this ever changing situation, and we now know all Exeter students have the capability of learning virtually, if needed. However, I am writing today to ask you to please consider letting families have a choice for the rest of the school year --- the choice to whether our children remain virtual or go into to the brick and mortar buildings. I realize neither of these situations are perfect, but this cannot continue to be a one size fits all decision.</p> <p>In our household we are fortunate to have both my husband and myself working from home full time, making our situation better than most, but we still feel our children need to be back in the school buildings for learning. Other school districts in our county have returned, and yes there have been some issues because again, the situation is not perfect, but for the most part it is working. I will spare you the details, but our children are not thriving in this virtual environment, let alone the technical/internet/sound/zoom/schoology issues that arise each day.</p> <p>I would like to understand why our district cannot follow the guidelines these other schools have in place. When we were told everyone was made to go virtual for Fall, that was part of the reasoning – let’s see what/how other school districts manage the situation. If you feel like they cannot go back to the school buildings after the 1st quarter, what will be different after the 2nd 3rd or 4th? Yes there are risks to going back to in-person learning, but parents should be able to make the decision, weighing the risk vs. reward for our children.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Allison Grove</p> <p>Hello there,</p> <p>I hope you are doing well.</p> <p>I wanted to send over the information I had previously sent to the school board, since there is a curriculum meeting this evening. Since a little time has passed, I do have two comments / questions to add to the below....</p> <p>My comment is, that almost every other school district around us is now back to school, mostly full time. I am curious to know why Exeter does not have this option on the table for discussion as well, with keeping a virtual option for those who do not feel that it feels safe.</p> <p>Secondly, my question is if anyone is looking at the grades of our students and if they have declined because we have not been in school since March of last year --- I have been hearing from families that, that is definitely the case with virtual learning, because some students are not as successful as</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Holly Moore	<p>While I personally am on the fence with this subject, I have to express my children's views on the matter. I have a 5th grader and an 11th grader.</p> <p>My 11th grader is an honors student. Somehow this semester she seems to have MANY of her difficult classes. I see her stress and struggle, sometimes cry. I think it is difficult to have her not have the one on one support she may need when she needs it. I personally am not around when they are in school, so I am not sure if she even asks questions when she has them.</p> <p>Then we have my 5th grader, which whom is completely in virtual school unsupervised since my husband and I work full time and my high schooler is in her own room doing her own virtual school. He is a gifted student, very smart... however he isn't learning a thing. I don't blame the teachers for this, they are doing their best, but when you have students at different levels, it is hard to appease all of them when you only have so much time on virtual. My son is bored. He is done his work in 5 mins when given 20, his is distracted by the cat, the tv, snacks, anything... They are also in school for way too much time for virtual. You can't keep them focused for that long. I hear the frustration in his teachers voice. I know it can't be easy for them as well.</p> <p>I am totally terrified for the kids to be back in a large group for sure. However, they would benefit from some sort of in school learning. Being around friends, being in a slightly normal world...</p> <p>I am anxious to hear what Exeter is planning to do. Many schools in Berks are functioning fine in school... we need to look at that with some reassurance that this will be ok.</p> <p>Holly Moore</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Shannon LaRosse	<p>Hi Mr. Gibney,</p> <p>My name is Shannon LaRosse and my daughter, Nora, is currently in 3rd grade at Owatin Creek Elementary. My understanding is that during tonight's meeting you will be discussing the plan and options for returning to in-person school beginning as early as next month. I am in support of my daughter returning to in-person schooling. Our youngest child is 2 and returned to daycare a month ago. She is currently at Antietam Academy, which has been open again since June and has had no student test positive for the virus so far. The daycare has made effective changes to reduce interactions between multiple classes, eliminated group lunchrooms, and changed drop-off procedures. They also do not require the use of masks for any of the children, only the staff. My first question/comment is regarding whether or not Exeter has spoken with any of the local daycare administrators who have been successful in re-opening their facilities and have developed their own plans for how to combat the virus.</p> <p>Secondly, I believe that with the right preventative measures in place in-person schooling can be successful. However, when I read the proposed plan for returning 5 days a week but only for half of each day, I realize that option just won't work for us. I've spoken to many other parents in our community and we all had the same reaction. Because many of us, myself and my husband included, work full time jobs, we just can't deal with one more obstacle (transportation) every day. I consider myself lucky that I have an employer who has allowed me to work from home 2 days a week, and to allow my daughter to come to work with me the other days. I just can't ask him to allow me to leave to take her to school, to leave again when she needs to be picked up, and to allow her to spend the rest of the day at the office with me on top of it. I consider myself lucky that I've been given the flexibility I have so far, but asking for even more is out of the question. I know that other schools in the area, namely Daniel Boone, have had success with full-day part-time in-person learning. I was hoping for a schedule similar to what Daniel Boone implemented from the start (2 days in-person and 3 virtual). This would not only accommodate the arrangements that a lot of working parents already have in place, but I believe it would allow for a reduction in exposure as well. Because Exeter's proposed plan is for 1 group of students to attend in the morning and the 2nd group in the afternoon, any "germs" that were left behind by the 1st group would put the 2nd group at risk. By instead having group 1 attend Monday & Tuesday, allowing Wednesday as a student-free day during which the school could be thoroughly cleaned, and having group 2 attend the last 2 days of the week, I believe the risk of the virus being spread is cut down substantially.</p> <p>My final question is in regards to whether or not transportation will be offered to students and what that will look like going forward.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and dedication to the well-being of our students!</p> <p>Shannon LaRosse 5 Forest Court Reading, PA 19606 484-343-0684</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Alicia Dauble	<p>Hi –</p> <p>I will unfortunately not be able to listen to the meeting tonight. That being said, based on the “rumors” of what the potential back to school may look like for Nov, I have a couple of questions. If this is not accurate, then maybe you can tweak these questions???</p> <p>For kids K-6th will be going half days either morning or afternoon, 5 days a week. My question is, with the swapping of kids in the morning and afternoon, how do you expect to get a deep clean done to prevent the germs? Wouldn't it be prudent to have the same kids go all day for 2 days (Mon & Tues), deep clean Wed, and then bring in the other half of kids on Th & Fr? I can only imagine the nightmare this split would do to working parents. I am lucky enough to still work at home so it doesn't impact me yet.</p> <p>If half days and you have kids in different schools (ie. Owatin and Reiffon), could they all be designated the same slot (morning v. afternoon)</p> <p>For the older kids, same thing. I heard kids with last name to A-K (or something like that) would go on mon and thur and the other kids would go tue and fri. Why not have the same kids go Mon and Tue, deep clean Wed, other half go Thur/Fri.</p> <p>Busing – how is that going to go? For example, 7th graders don't log on till 9am (unless need to meet with teacher). Are you going to have them come into school and start at their normal 740 (?) time and sit around for 100min? or will buses come later? Or will those that are virtual now start early? For the younger kids, what is the timing going to be like...I can't imagine buses taking kids home around lunch to turn around and pick up the afternoon kids. Will there be enough time to do cleaning?</p> <p>I assume 100% virtual will still be an option?</p> <p>Thanks. Alicia</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Brittany Mountz	<p>Hello –</p> <p>I am a concerned parent of a Lorane Elementary Kindergartner. I understand there are possible plans to bring the students back to the schools starting in the second quarter. I also understand that this may be half days for K-6. As I see my son struggling with the asynchronous lessons I would urge you to reconsider having the students attend for a full day. The plan to have less kids in the classroom makes sense; however, you cannot tell me that the classroom will be deep cleaned within an hour from AM to PM classes. These kids need social interaction with ALL of their classmates. They also need to have more time with their teachers. Virtual is NOT working in this household and it is making it extremely difficult for working parents. Other school districts have students back full time/full days and are operating fine. I understand that COVID cases may arise, but I entrust the school district to have a plan in place to control this. A very thorough plan was provided at the beginning of the school year and I do not understand why this cannot be put into place. Please keep in mind the best interest of the children and not politics!</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Brittany Mountz</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Danielle Guillama</p>	<p>Good Afternoon, I am a parent of a Kindergarten and 2nd grade student at Owatin Creek. I am also a Certified School Nurse and I work for Daniel Boone School District in the Elementary setting.</p> <p>I want to express my desire to see the students of Exeter Township School District return to school in person. I have not only seen this in action but I am working every day alongside staff, administrators and teachers who are currently teaching in person and virtual learners while being in a classroom.</p> <p>Multiple school districts around the Exeter Township School District have either been in person or will be going to some sort of in person learning for the Second Quarter. Our children need to return to school- my children ask daily when they will be allowed to come to Owatin and see their teachers and experience the feeling of returning to a daily routine that does not include sitting in front of a screen to watch their teacher and fellow students.</p> <p>I would like to see the School Board support families such as mine that are ready to return to in person learning while still allowing families that choose to keep their students home have that same support. My children know how to wear a mask for the day and follow social distancing guidelines and I am currently working at a school that has K-2 learners that are doing this every day.</p> <p>Please realize that there are too many students and families that are negatively impacted by our school doors being closed and we need to find a way forward. We all realize that there are many challenges to this situation and I for one will help in any way I can to support the re-opening of our schools. If there is anything at all you want us to help with then let the community know how we can provide that support.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing some positive input.</p> <p>Danielle Guillama Cell #609-828-7561</p>
<p>Joanna Stuck</p>	<p>Berks county positivity rate is at 4.7% which is green. In the other districts, how many of the schools have closed down and returned to virtual due to an outbreak? Why is the plan to return to school so far off? Our district should be able to get kids back to school within a 3 day return plan and be monitoring the positivity rates on a weekly basis. Can the kids get back to school now? There is no reason this should be an issue due to the low positivity rates and no current large outbreaks in other s</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Marisol Boria	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am going to make this as short as possible.</p> <p>Our kids must go back to school. Our kids are not getting the education and the attention they deserve.</p> <p>Parents are going insane trying to balance school, work, life – moms like myself are crying, struggling daily to manage this. We have no help and we have life to maintain.</p> <p>I beg, Exeter Township manage a way to bring these kids back to school. My kids, both boys age 6 and 10, they want to go back to school. They want to see their friends. Surrounding districts have managed away to make it happen, what is happening with Exeter that we are not giving our kids the same. Ask your students... every kid I have asked...they want to go back to school.</p> <p>Parents that want their kids to go back to school should have the decision, and parents who want to stay them to stay at home, fine.</p> <p>Allow the option!</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>.</p> <p>Marisol Boria Lead Customer Service Representative G&T Industries Phone: 610-374-6700 x6882 Fax: 610-374-9700</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Tierney Jones</p>	<p>Good evening, As the evening approaches for the committee to communicate for the possible return of students I must say these children need to be in school. Maybe not so much as the older students but k-5 should at least be in person in school learning. These kids need hands on education, social interaction with their teachers and their classmates. Sitting on a computer for hours a day has done absolutely nothing for my daughter as far as learning new educational materiel. She is struggling hard to stay focused and follow along with her classmates. She needs hands on attention in class. If she needs extra help she can raise her hand and receive that help. On zoom she is not getting that. She needs extra tutors which she is not receiving currently. While I know with the pandemic and the scare of the virus I feel as though there are many precautions we can take to put these kids back in school. I've seen other schools having such success with these kids being in the classroom. Daycares and preschools are open with success. No reason these kids can't be in school learning at this point. It's becoming impossible to have these kids learn anything while being home and learning from a computer. It's becoming hard on parents trying to figure it all out especially those single parent like myself out there. It's becoming hard on these teachers as well. I can see the struggle these teachers now have to face to keep kids engaged in a screen while trying to teach. Everyone needs to be back in the classroom where teachers and kids belong.</p>
<p>Lindsey Kopec</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>We want to voice our opinion on sending children back to school in person. Our seven-year-old, second grader needs to go back to school in person. Even if it's partial weeks. He does not have an attention span to sit in front of a computer. He cries every morning. I don't blame him, we cry too. There's no interaction with other kids his age. He's easily distracted. He's constant help despite having a wonderful teacher. And he's one of the fortunate ones that has a parent that's able to be home with him.</p> <p>We also want to voice that half days are NOT Preferred. By the time children get into school and settled you're going to be sending them home. It's double the work cleaning the buses it's double the work in classroom cleanings. And it still does not help working parents. If other school districts figure it out How to do this how has Exeter not?</p> <p>Sincerely The Kopec family</p>
<p>Sandy Hummel</p>	<p>As I sit with my 8 yr old granddaughter I listen to her and her classmates when they break out into their work groups it is evident that these kids socially need to get back to school. They are thrilled to be able to chat with one another, giggle, and have fun as kids should. Please consider getting them back ASAP! Thanks!-- Sandy Hummel</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Ashley Weaver</p>	<p>Good evening! We would love to be given the chance to decide whether to send our children back to school. And I will say, we are so thankful that the decision was made for us to be virtual for the first 9 weeks of school because we didn't feel completely comfortable sending them at that point. I think after watching other local school districts doing well it's obvious that we can make it work in Exeter too. We're looking forward to seeing your model and are hopeful that we are given a chance to get our children back in school with their amazing teachers who have gone so above and beyond. Thank you for all that you do! Ashley Weaver</p>
<p>Kristi Piersol</p>	<p>Hello, I recently sent the following to the Superintendent and the School Board-</p> <p>Hello Dr. Minor and School Board Members,</p> <p>I am a mother of a 9th grade student and I also help four families with elementary school children. The students are kindergarten, 1st grade, and two 4th graders. I felt it was important to share my experience, especially since I have such a wide range in kids with different backgrounds and ages.</p> <p>In my opinion, the children need to have the option to return to school. Although they are adapting to the virtual environment, it does not appear to be enough. They are muddling through and not thriving. I do not see a drive to learn.</p> <p>I see them get easily frustrated and are afraid to ask for help. When they do raise their hand, the teacher doesn't always see it and the questions go unanswered (leaving them even more frustrated.) They are disengaged. I hear many teachers telling other students to wake up and/or stay focused. They are frustrated with tech issues.</p> <p>The screen time is affecting them with eye issues and headaches. They miss interacting with the teacher and friends.</p> <p>Most of the lessons appear to be designed for more physical and verbal interaction, so when the lesson is over the kids are left with nothing to do.</p> <p>I should be seeing an improvement in their respective skills, but I actually see the opposite. While virtual learning may be beneficial to some, that does not seem to be the case for the children I see and work with. I think the teachers have done a great job adapting and trying to help but I believe there is too much gap with learning virtually.</p> <p>I am respectfully asking you to choose, vote and approve a return to brick and mortar school.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, Kristi Piersol</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Kelly Stewart	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a parent of a 6th and 8th grader, I'd like to voice my concerns regarding in person vs virtual instruction.</p> <p>We have been thankful for virtual due to having a newborn in our household - it does put me at ease knowing the older kids are not bringing home germs. However virtual has not been without challenges. The biggest issue we have seen is assignments not getting turned in (I hear this from other parents as well). It seems teachers do not follow up on missing assignments until progress reports go out. Most were assignments my kids didn't even know they had missing, which leaves them playing catch up all at once. If this could get ironed out, I think it would be much smoother.</p> <p>Overall, I have greater concerns about in person learning, simply because we are entering germ season. October through April is prime time for transmission of colds and flu, and now covid. The half day model that was sent out is not conducive to working parents, or parents of multiple kids in different schools.</p> <p>Overall, I'd like a virtual option that didn't involve the kids being switched to a different teacher, as this is a huge disruption for kids already struggling with this pandemic.</p>
	<p>I feel (and every other parent I have talked to) that the kids needs to go back to school! Alot of kids are having a hard time (and parents) and they really aren't learning anything. They need to be in school and in person for hands on experiences. These kids can not focus on a computer. Alot of other school districts went back and are doing fine</p>
Ashlee Perez	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I know they school is voting tonight on the students going back in person. My daughter needs to go back to school in person. She cries because she wants to meet her friends and not talk to them during break out sessions. She is a social butterfly and does very well with in person interaction. Please let us parents decide if we want our kids to go in person or to keep them virtual. The original plan I thought was best when we were able to decide what is best for our children. My daughter attended Antietam Academy before kindergarten and they had no issues with being open. The kids wore their mask their temperatures were taken everyday. They did not have any cases of Covid. Please gives these kids a chance of a normal life. My daughters kindergarten experience has been nothing of what we wanted for her.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashlee Perez</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Holly Loscig	<p>I am a parent to a 2nd grader in Lorane. I feel as though school should not return in person as of yet. With higher cases in the state and cold and flu season coming.</p> <p>My son is doing well with virtual learning is loving his teacher. If they go back my son will be staying home because we as his parents feel it in not good timing to go back and he has anxiety and is afraid of getting the virus and there is nothing my myself or my husband can do there to protect him. Also we adjusted our work schedules for all day virtual learning, not half days. That will just make everyone have to rework their home/work schedules, and how would that even work for every parent doing half days. We all can't quit our jobs just to be sure we can get our child on the bus or off the bus half way through the day.</p> <p>And my last concernmy son is very happy with his teacher now, I heard if he doesn't go back to school because we hold him home until we are comfortable sending him back he is at risk of losing his teacher due to class size. My son has anxiety and is on the spectrum he can not handle all these changes. So why should my son lose his teacher he is excelling. And progressing with just because we want him safe and free of the virus.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Megan Shirey	<p data-bbox="623 232 1270 256">Dear Dr. Minor, Dr. Winters and School Board members,</p> <p data-bbox="623 293 1795 646">My name is Megan Shirey and I have a kindergartener and a third grader in the district. First, I would like to commend the teachers and staff for their dedication, time, efforts, and willingness to adapt to the many changes in our education system during this time of uncertainty. I do however, feel very strongly about our district attempting to return to the brick and mortar setting in some capacity. Our children are not benefiting from sitting in front of an iPad or computer all day and it is severely jeopardizing their learning experience. It is extremely frustrating to me that my kindergartener is expected to sit at a device/iPad for 2.5 hours when their attention span is a fraction of that. How much is a 5-6 year really learning or taking away from that experience? Additionally, the learning that takes place in kindergarten and at the lower elementary grades sets the foundation to succeed academically. It's a constant struggle to keep my kindergartener engaged during his live Zoom meeting. The education system should provide our children with a positive learning experience and the opportunity to learn and practice essential social, emotional, and problem solving skills.</p> <p data-bbox="623 678 1753 732">I have reviewed the possible options to return to the brick and mortar setting and I fully support any plan that involves in person learning.</p> <p data-bbox="623 737 1753 881">We have seen childcare centers reopen, athletic teams practicing, and other districts return to in person instruction without major issue. There are districts that are transitioning back to in person instruction. Hamburg returned fully to in person instruction this fall without any issues to date. My children's education is a top priority and unfortunately, at this time, with virtual education, I feel that their opportunity to learn is being jeopardized.</p> <p data-bbox="623 886 1795 972">There has been plenty of time to prepare for transitioning back to in person learning. I hope that there is a plan in place because I would be disappointed if lack of planning and strategizing would hinder the inability to return in the second marking period.</p> <p data-bbox="623 977 1696 1063">It is my hope that our district is making every attempt to have our children return to in person instruction as soon as possible because our schools play a fundamental role in supporting our children's development and academic achievement.</p> <p data-bbox="623 1096 1795 1539">I would also like to add that when looking at data for returning to school, we need to look at the COVID cases in Exeter as far as planning our return to school. Unfortunately, this is challenging since Berks County does not have their own Department of Health and each municipality is not reporting data, as is done in some neighboring counties. It was previously noted that to consider return to in person learning, Berks needed to be below 5% for the positivity rate. PCR positivity rate as of 10/2/20 was noted to be 4.7% per the Pennsylvania Department of Health. I can tell you that the majority of those cases are in the City of Reading and from our local colleges. I work in healthcare, and I'm quite aware of the risk and concern for safety and protection. My department reviews the data daily and we make regular adjustments to protocols and policies. Certainly, no one ever expected to be working in the throws of global pandemic, risking our own lives and the lives of our children and families. COVID, however, is not a pediatric disease. Less than 10% of cases are in children/adolescents with a tiny fraction of those cases being complicated or life threatening. We need to get these children back to the brick and mortar setting. There will be long term effects and consequences if we don't. I'm already seeing a rise in childhood obesity, mental health issues, social anxiety, fear, general anxiety, depression, substance use, suicide...and the list goes on.</p> <p data-bbox="623 1572 1795 1624">My children are my priority, and, in order to provide for our children and our family, we also have to work. Virtual learning has provided unforeseen challenges for the working parent/parents. Childcare is</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Jenny Miller</p>	<p>My name is Jenny Miller. I have a first grader at Owtain creek elementary. First, I want to say that I appreciate the school board thinking about students' health and safety, however our children need to get back to school. Our teachers are working overtime trying to provide daily quality lessons. At no fault to of thier own, this task is impossible. Have you ever tried to be on a zoom meeting with 20 first graders, who are in control of the mute button. Let alone trying to pay attention when there are numerous distractions on the screen. Teachers can't effectively teach younger students in virtual environment. It just doesn't work, especially for reading. Our children are getting one size fits all instruction. Nothing is individualized or differentiated for students. All I am asking is to let parents decided the health and safety of thier children. We should be able to choose what type of environment is safe for our children. All I am looking for is for my son and the other students to be given the opportunity for in-person education.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jenny Miller</p>
<p>Amie Wanner</p>	<p>Please return our kids to school. Virtual is allowing our kids to fail. My 7th grade straight A student is dropping grades like crazy, even with attending all classes and submitting all work. My 3rd grader needs to be in person with the teacher to learn properly. My 5th grade niece is BORED.</p> <p>Please. My kids are BEGGING to return to school. Even 3 days a week would be better than sitting in front of the Chromebooks all day. Don't get me wrong- the district is doing what they can to teach our students virtually. But this is not something we chose. This is not fair to our children. They need to be in school. They need to be around their peers. They need to meet and personally interact with their teachers. IEP's need to be in person. The list goes on.</p> <p>Take a look at local schools who went back and have safely stayed in school. Even if they have cases, they are handled quickly and properly. Exeter can do this. Look at daycares who have had children back since July. Look at all of the kids playing sports, doing Scouts. Going to work.</p> <p>Please reconsider virtual as the mandate. By all means, if the parents choose virtual that is fine. But the majority of us want our kids back in school. The splitting days will not work. What a nightmare for working parents or households like mine when my niece is currentlty at my house during the day for virtual school so she has adult supervision, but cannot get to school from my house.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Amie Wanner. Concerned Exeter Parent.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
cfederico134	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>Mrs. Superintendent, the families I've spoken with that are in different school districts have used the one week in and one week out method, rotating student groups. From speaking with these families this has worked well for them</p>
Cathy Peters	<p>Someone really needs to look into the issue regarding school work. My 10th grader has always been an A, B student. Now she is failing 2 classes due to assignments not going through. She does her work normally at the kitchen table or outside at the patio table, I know she is doing her work. She has contacted her teachers and her advisor over the past weeks with no luck in resolving this issue. She has been dealing with this for weeks now, and she and any other student should not be penalized due to the failures of online schooling. Thank you.</p>
Erika Cataldi	<p>Give parents the choice. Run school As normal and if people choose to send their children, they sit in the class. If kids choose to go virtual, they log in the same time the class is physically in session. Class sizes will be decreased, kids are engaged and parents are happy.</p> <p>Erika Lebo Patent of an 11th,9th and 2nd grader</p>
Patricia Baxter	<p>Hello I just seen a post on Facebook suggesting that we email our thoughts and concerns about if children should be going back to school . I have to tell you my seventh grade son, is an IEP student and failing miserably. he needs in person school right away. I understand for some students this works like for my fourth grader she has absolutely no problems virtual learning is fine for her but for my son he needs all the extra help that he can get he has an extreme short attention span and sitting in front of a computer for hours a day at a time just does not work please consider re-opening school immediately these kids need it . thank you -Patricia Baxter</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Julie Cox</p>	<p>Dear School Board,</p> <p>I understand that schools are dealing with an unprecedented time. The decisions being made are based on real time information and there is nothing in history that can help you going forward. I can not speak for everyone but I can be the voice for my family. I am a working mother who has been lucky enough to have an employer who has been able to give me the flexibility to work mostly at home and make sure that my children have the support they need during this time of virtual schooling. My husband does not have the same flexibility and must report to work each day. Even though we have 2 incomes we do not have the ability to spend extra money for childcare on a weekly basis. We are blessed to be able to accommodate a 5th grader, 7th grader and myself at our home with schooling and my work obligations. I understand the want and the need to get the kids back to brick and mortar, but the half day proposal would complicated an already complicated situation. I feel that the half day would be more disruptive and actually cause more stress and chaos. I feel that if they are going to be allowed back in schools that is should be for the full day on a rotating basis. My other concern is that the survey that was sent out was missing key details of times in school as well as transportation. These things would have a big impact on many families trying to juggle work and multiple students schedules. If I had to make a choice with the limited information that was communicated I would choose to keep my kids virtual until a different plan is discussed.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Julie Cox</p>
<p>Jacqueline Wanner</p>	<p>Date: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 17:08:42 -0400 Subject: Returning to school Hello, I would like to voice my opinion about the children returning back to school. Having to homeschool 3 grand children in different grades is eye opening. The stress and frustration and aggravation these children have is not good. I feel so bad for the teachers also. I really hope that you decide to return back to your original plan of reopening. Thank you for your time</p> <p>Jacqueline Wanner</p>
<p>Alisha Corcino</p>	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>Thank you so much for hearing opinions from our community. I know this is a most difficult and unprecedented decision whether to reopen schools or not. I truly believe it is a decision doctors who are familiar with the severity of how contagious this disease is should weigh in on, but I also believe we can reopen responsibly. And we need to reopen. Teachers and my students are doing well with the online platform, but definitely not forever. Research should be done to see how surrounding schools are open safely. See you all tonight.</p> <p>Best, Alisha Corcino</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Tiffany Acker	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What's the plan for blended families should you decide to do half days? 2. Is there no extra concern for children with iep's? They should be in school all day! 3. Will the 3 hours include travel in that?? 4. Why can you not leave it up to the parents and their comfort level? Offering what you did in the summer that you took away from us without a second thought. Whether it be against cdc Guidelines or not, most schools are back up and running. It is actually recommended to have all children back in school. This is doing NOTHING but harming our children and making them fall further and further behind.
Anna Bluestone	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I have already expressed my views and detailed the challenges I am experiencing with my children in the current virtual learning environment to the board and superintendent, however I wanted to make sure that these concerns were made known before tonight's board meeting. All 3 of my children have struggled in one way or another but the common theme is that they learn best with a hands-on approach, which I am simply not able to provide to 3 young children at once, while also trying to work. Putting aside the financial impact this has had on our family, with only one parent ever able to work outside the home without paid caregivers, my children (all of whom are very good students) are consistently underperforming where they were in any given year of in-person learning. While some of this can certainly be expected given that we are in a pandemic, it's more than I would expect, and more importantly, is more than my children expect of themselves. The negativity I hear from them is uncharacteristic of their usual demeanors. They are frustrated, at times exasperated, with the fact that they are not able to complete work in this current learning environment as they have in the past. It's taking a toll on their self confidence in their abilities, which is very sad to see when I know they are gifted students (2 are in fact in the gifted/challenge program). I know that if my children are struggling, there are likely many, many more children who are as well. I urge you to take this into consideration and put together a plan that makes safety as well as education a priority. With many, many other districts proceeding with hybrid options, I would ask that we be allowed to opt into a similar plan, whatever that may look like. I think given that the governor has deemed it acceptable for virtual and/or hybrid education with the current virus numbers, we as parents should be able to make informed decisions for our families based on our comfort and needs. It is frustrating to me, and to many other families I've spoken with, that we have not been given this choice, and while I understand not jumping right to in person learning at the beginning of the school year, I think we have seen that districts can do this safely and I would encourage the board to begin working on a plan so that Exeter can offer the choice of virtual vs hybrid learning as well. Thank you.</p> <p>Anna Bluestone</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Jennie Gallagher	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a parent in the Exeter school district and although my thought may not been seen as pertinent as other parents, I am very concerned with schools reopening. My oldest is only in preschool which we kept him home from, but my youngest son is a preemie and falls into the high risk category. I firmly believe that Exeter has not done enough to protect the vulnerable population and I believe that reopening schools would be irresponsible for various reasons.</p> <p>First and foremost- we are walking into cold and flu season, which alone tends to have an impact on school attendance, but in addition to that we have a very contagious virus. While younger students do not typically have many adverse reaction to the virus, they are taking that home to their families. They are spreading it to their teachers. They are contributing to the spread, perhaps even more dangerously as they are often asymptomatic.</p> <p>Secondly, allowing schools to open puts the entire population of the township and beyond at risk. Those students are interacting with each other, and we all know that no rules you set in place will be strictly adhered as we have seen before, and those students will then be working, transmitting these illnesses to more people within the community.</p> <p>There are studies that show a shift in how our brains actually learn in the new generations as they have grown up with technology. We can see that kids comprehend more than my generation did in school, and so on. While online learning will not be as stimulating in their social lives, it will absolutely be just as educational with the proper teachings of technology to families, which should be implemented in the event that online learning stays.</p> <p>This is not coming from the parent of students, but it is coming from a community member who is desperate. My family has been in lockdown since July of 2019 when my son was born prematurely. We cannot take him out in this current climate, even for a quick run to the store. He has never met most of his family and he knows his siblings as the only other children on earth because we are desperate to keep him healthy as this virus will be detrimental to his health. He is not the only community member in this position.</p> <p>This opinion is also coming from myself, a student nurse, and my husband, a scientist who specializes in microbiology and works in R&D. Our opinions, while are partly based on emotion, are mainly coming from the scientific data released by experts in their fields. My husband works on a covid vaccine for Johnson and Johnson. He has seen how this virus behaves and genuinely believes this not safe for our children and will be detrimental to our community. Our knowledge on the virus is still evolving. We cannot assume that we can open the schools safely when we have seen other schools try and fail to do so.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this and I will cautiously be awaiting the boards decision. -Jennie Gallagher</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Kate Cogan	<p>Hi! I wanted to share our positive virtual learning experience with the administration and board members this evening:</p> <p>I am writing today, not to try and convince you one way or another about returning to school buildings, but to share my family's experience with virtual learning thus far. As a former teacher I know that switching a whole district to virtual learning is no easy task for anyone involved. With that being said, I want to commend the district for putting so much thought and preparation into this new learning platform. I have three children attending Jacksonwald elementary school. They are in fourth grade, third grade and Kindergarten. I could not be happier with the level of education they are receiving. Obviously this is no one's first choice, but my children happily log-in every day and are highly engaged in their learning. This is a testimony to the teachers who have stepped-up and worked so hard to create a welcoming learning environment. My children's teacher's are going above and beyond every day to make sure that their students are receiving the same quality education that they would receive in the classroom and I am proud to be a part of this district!</p> <p>I know that you all are challenged with an extremely difficult decision and that no matter what you decide it won't make everyone happy. So, thank you for taking into consideration the health and well-being of students, teachers and staff when making this decision.</p> <p>Thanks for all you do for our district, Kate Cogan</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Brittany Whiteman	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I am emailing you again, imploring you to allow our kids to go back to school as soon as possible. I understand that not all parents would choose that and that is fine! They will have the option to keep their kids home. But my family is not doing well with this virtual schooling. Our teachers are amazing! Without the teachers we have, I know that our lives would currently be even worse than they are now. They are working so hard to do the very best that they can, but this is not the way most kids were created to learn. We have tears every single day here. Almost every day, one of my children screams that they hate school. We have 3 school Chromebooks and 1 doesn't work right but no one in tech can figure it out so here we are, stuck. My daughter is missing pieces of her education because she cannot see when the teacher shares her screen to show them how to do a math problem. 2 of my kids have always struggled in school and now I feel like we are slowly falling farther and farther behind.</p> <p>I can't even begin to describe to you how this is affecting my kids behavior outside of school hours - anger, tears, frustration. They are stuck staring at a screen for the better part of 6 hours and it's affecting them so much more than Covid ever will.</p> <p>Who thinks this is what's best for our kids? We are doing them a terrible disservice. I am not a fan of this crazy half day plan someone came up with, thinking this is a good idea, but at this point I will take anything I can get. My kids ask me every day (that is not an exaggeration) when they can finally go back to real school. I pray that after October 20, I will have good news for them. We owe our kids so much more. Please allow us to make the choice that is best for our own families.</p> <p>Thank you. Brittany Whiteman</p>
Colleen Wertz	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would just like to voice my and my family's support of reopening the schools. My children are not thriving in this virtual environment and would benefit greatly from attending in-person classes. I believe the youngest students are the ones who are suffering most and it is heart breaking to watch. I have a 1st grader and 3rd grade at Owatin Creek.</p>
VERONICA DEVAULT	<p>To Whoma it May Concern,</p> <p>We have to open the schools. Both of my boys are very confused about online schooling and their tasks. For the first time ever, I hear them say they want to go back to school. Their education and social skills aren't where they should because of not being in school. Education and teachers are essential for the youth.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
kim yienst	<p>I believe we cannot ignore science facts and safely open the schools for our children and school staff. I am asking the schools stay closed until everyone can return safely. I do not believe our schools should be used as a daycare while ignoring a deadly virus.</p> <p>Thank you Kim P . Yienst</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Kristy Durham	<p data-bbox="623 233 793 258">Good evening,</p> <p data-bbox="623 293 1780 347">I sent this email to Dr. Minor last week and just received a phone call back from her today while I was at work. Just wanted to share my thoughts.</p> <p data-bbox="623 383 919 407">Good afternoon Dr. Minor</p> <p data-bbox="623 501 1793 617">I am writing in regards to the survey that was sent out to families on September 21, 2020 related to the return to brick and mortar instruction. First, I would like to mention that the teachers at Exeter are doing a phenomenal job with the virtual learning. I feel like this has been very successful in my home for my 10th, 4th, and 1st grade children, so I am very grateful that this has come together so nicely.</p> <p data-bbox="623 711 1793 971">My concerns are related to the survey questions for elementary and high school students. The proposal for elementary school students to attend school in person for a half day is virtually impossible as a working parent. My job has been flexible with the virtual learning since I have the option to do Telehealth or face to face sessions, and I am thankful for that. Having to leave an area midday to pick up or take my children to school would be a huge inconvenience. I would also lose more income in addition to what has already been lost due to COVID 19. It is currently not an option for one of my children to ride the bus due to severe food allergies and not being able to self carry his epinephrine, and it is not guaranteed that someone will be home, especially if high school students return to school face to face.</p> <p data-bbox="623 1065 1793 1268">My other concern with the elementary students attending half days is that the virus is airborne and can live in the air up to 3 hours. I have considered staying fully virtual for my elementary students, but I also have concerns with their teachers potentially changing. My children have adjusted to virtual learning and they love their teachers. Completely uprooting them from a teacher that they have adjusted to during this pandemic would not be beneficial for their education or emotional wellbeing. They are fragile enough going through this pandemic as it is, so I believe that maintaining the same teacher for the children is essential.</p> <p data-bbox="623 1362 1772 1565">I would also like to express my concerns with the proposal for high school students. My question is, what is the purpose of the student attending school in person if they are still going to learn virtually in the classroom? As a parent, I see this as sending my student to school to increase the risk of exposure and potentially being distracted during the synchronous virtual learning due to peers being present. Who would be there to direct them back to task if a teacher is not going to be present? I understand the purpose of socializing and the hands on experiences, especially at the high school level, but I do believe there has to be a better option.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Beverly Pergola	<p>Good evening Hope you all are well. I personally am going to keep my children home until the masks requirement goes away. My daughter cannot wear a mask all day and learn properly in that kind of environment. I personally think the school district is doing a great job with virtual learning and it's a far better environment for learning then all of the social distancing and masks requirements that kids will face if and when the school district returns to a brick and mortar environment. Thank you for your time with this matter Bev Pergola</p>
Amy McLaughlin	<p>To whom it may concern; I am sending this email tonight as my voice in regards to school re-opening. As a parent of 2 kindergarteners, it is just not feasible to teach children this age virtually despite the great efforts of the teachers. It is impossible to keep a 5-6 year old engaged on an iPad for hours with adults they have never met! Additionally, children with IEP's especially need to be in school. My children are really struggling and speech virtually just does not work! My children need in person instruction to get the education they deserve. I understand we are in uncharted waters with COVID-19 and we want our children to be safe. Maybe you could invite a local daycare director/owner to discuss their day to day operations as they have been open since June without incident!</p> <p>Regards, Amy McLaughlin</p>
Clapping Onkidzz	<p>I like the idea of hybrid.... get some socializing in and some in class help for students that need it... Monday Tuesday group a - Wednesday sanitize school, virtual day, Thursday and Friday group b Thank you for asking for our thoughts!</p> <p>Kristyn walters</p>
Brittany Whiteman	<p>If the board votes against the reopening plan, what is the next step?</p>
metal7	<p>Dear Exeter School Board,</p> <p>As a parent of 4 children, 3 of whom are Exeter SD students, I am dismayed at your failure to return to school out of fear. It is very personal for me because I lost my job, yet I can't seek work because I'm stuck at home doing your job for you. At the very least, special needs students should be 100 percent in school instruction, before they lose all momentum of growth. Other districts have shown less fear in returning and are back on track. Another point of contention is how you feel sports are necessary, yet in school instruction is not. Get your priorities straight and get these kids back to school!</p> <p>- Chris Gatto</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>KRISTEN OTT</p>	<p>To whom it may concern, I just want to make you aware of a few things. My daughter came down with hives a few weeks ago and is having mental breakdowns during the day due to the work overload given by her teachers. My daughter is up by 7am to start her day gets done school by 2:15-2:30 and continues to stay on the computer because work is due by 3pm in some classes and 11:59pm for others. My daughter was at the kitchen table at 11pm the other night just to get her work in. This is UNACCEPTABLE!!! My child was once a straight A student! Not this semester! I want to thank the school district for failing her! She was once a happy go lucky kid and is NOW depressed because of anxiety! There is NO reason for a child to be on a computer for almost 12 hrs a day. NONE!! The work overload needs to stop and it needs to stop TODAY! These kids need time away from a computer! I'm at my breaking point with this school district and I will not sit back and watch you LET HER FAIL! These kids are struggling on a daily basis! I'm not the only household complaining! As for attendance my child miss a few classes due to a doctors appt, which I sent a note in. I told my daughter not to get upset when it's marked! I will take that responsibility because I know she is on the computer and in the class! It's an absolute joke! What are my options with this school district for alternative schooling as this is not working! Other schools in the district are open and running successfully meanwhile Exeter kids education is lacking and in most cases non existent! Our school needs to open! These kids need to be back to school! Thank you, Kristen Ott 10 Bowes Lane (19606)</p>
<p>Andrew and Amy Wright</p>	<p>Would you please elaborate on the safety procedures you will be putting in place during the lunch periods at the High School and Junior High School? How will students be kept safe while eating without wearing masks?</p>
<p>Ashley Kulp</p>	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I have two children in the district. One in the high school and one at lorane. I am not one of the parents that want their children back in school. I don't see how one teacher can teach children and also make sure that all guidelines are being followed. Adults can't follow rules/laws these days and they are the ones teaching their children. I see children and adults not wearing masks the correct way while grocery shopping. What makes anyone think they will listen while in school. At this point i want my children to remain home. The district has been doing an amazing job and I see no reason to put anyone at risk. My only complaint is that my children may end up with different teachers. I don't think thats fair. They have been through enough changes. The cases are on the rise in Berks County. I think everything should remain the same and be reevaluated in the new year.</p> <p>Thanks for your time, Ashley Kulp</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Jen Dixon	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opinion on the reopening of schools. At this time, I do not feel it is safe to reopen. Schools that are open, have students and teachers getting sick with COVID at alarming rates. Any staff or student that gets sick is too many. Heading into the flu season is not a wise choice to reopen schools with a potentially deadly virus. I would like my children to be around for the holidays and years to come without having to live with life long issues from a virus or potential death. If you can not protect our students then you should not reopen your doors. Please protect the future.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jen Dixon</p>
Allyson Schick	<p>Hi Mary Ann! I hope you're doing well!</p> <p>I'd like to address the following questions to Dr. Hubbard, if I may:</p> <p>Has the number of COVID-19 cases increased significantly among residents in school districts that are using partial or full in-person learning models?</p> <p>Also, how does the number of confirmed cases in Exeter compare to surrounding school districts and the county overall?</p> <p>Thank you, Allyson Schick</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
<p>Julie Weitzel</p>	<p>My name is Julie Hamlin Weitzel and I am the mother of a 6th grade student attending Reiffton and a 3rd grade student attending Lorane. My concern with the proposed return to school plan is a hybrid schedule including a 1/2 day schedule. As a working, single mother, 1/2 days are incredibly difficult to cover for those parents that are working. I have already arranged for child care for my children during the virtual learning and I am now facing the realization that I may need to come up with a completely different child care situation after my children have just gotten used to their new routine and new "normal". My other concern is that our children are just getting used to the new school environment and routine and schedule and now it could be completely undone, including the potential of losing the teacher they have become accustomed to as a result of teachers needing to teach the students remaining in the virtual world.</p> <p>If learning is the top priority, are you recognizing the stress and toll of the stress on families and children with the pandemic and multiple changes/transitions and how that will affect their learning and social-emotional well-being? Have you added up the instructional minutes to compare 1/2 days vs. several full-days in person? If so, what is the comparison? Have you talked to other districts that are doing 1/2 days vs. a combination of face-to-face instruction several days and virtual the other half to discuss the pros and cons and their successes with this plan? In addition, have you considered the significant impact of the numerous transitions this 1/2 day schedule will have on our students? In less than 4 hours, students will go to school, learn in person, come home, have lunch at home and then be expected to get back in the groove to complete their work. For younger elementary grades, I find this amount of transition to be concerning.</p> <p>In closing, I appreciate the fine teachers and staff that are working above and beyond for our students. I am disappointed that I don't feel that the best plan has been laid out for our students and their families and that while the community has voiced significant concerns regarding this proposal, it is falling on deaf ears.</p>
<p>Kathlene M T Haines</p>	<p>Hi</p> <p>Are they going to bring back childcare at the Lorane through the BCIU program? I know they have it at Jacksonwald. If you're not going to allow BCIU to hold childcare at Lorane, are you going to offer bussing to get the kids to Lorane from Jacksonwald?</p> <p>Thanks Kathy Haines</p>
<p>Kimberly Keim</p>	<p>At the 7-12 level, will students be taught by in person teachers? You are bringing them into the building, which is what we want, I NEED them to have live in person teaching, not zoom teaching! If you are bringing them into the building, I want them to have in person teaching not making them sit on zoom! So students in person will be taught in person or will in person students still be taught via zoom, just in the school building?</p> <p>Thanks, Kim Keim</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Tiffany Perricone	<p>Dr. Minor, My children currently read above grade level and also do well in math. They do, although, enjoy science and social studies- and benefit from participating in specials with their peers. How will my children (and others like them) benefit from your 1/2 day model that delivers only math and English in person?</p>
Daniel Weidenhammer	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I have 2 questions to ask in regards to this evening's meetings.</p> <p>When will we find out the bus schedules for Lorraine?</p> <p>What's the earliest that students can be dropped off at the school (Lorraine specifically) if we opt not to use the bus service to go to school for both am and pm sessions.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daniel Weidenhammer</p>
Nicole Hower	<p>Hello-</p> <p>I'd just like to say that as far as hybrid models go, I love the idea of my elementary students essentially getting small group instruction in reading and math 5 days a week. I feel like this model will help fill a lot of the gaps we have seen with students over the past 7 months!</p> <p>I do have a question regarding transportation- This seems like a lot of bus runs and I'm just curious how all that will work. Will there be 4 bus runs for elementary (pick up/drop off for both am and pm), 4 for reiffon, and 2 for jr high/high school?</p> <p>Thank you! Nikki Hower</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Carol Yeagley	<p>Andrew,</p> <p>I'm so pleased that you registered for Cybersecurity 1A: Foundations. This course will be interesting and provocative ... and it is a great way to earn this credit. Enjoy and get ready for a good ride.</p> <p>I can give you lots of hints to succeed as we go along but a few things to think about:</p> <p>Take notes</p> <p>Make a schedule and stick to it. Use your course calendar.</p> <p>Stay on pace. Work steadily..... Check your course pacing often</p> <p>There will be many assignments and assessments as you move through this course. Do your best work and always use your excellent notes.</p> <p>I'm here to help and I have lots of ideas for clearing challenges. I've been teaching for many years and I have kids and grandchildren so I know what it's like to get through an online course.</p>
dltruck	<p>Debbie Truckermiller 223 Sunrise Road</p> <p>For 7-12.....will the students in the building classrooms be learning via Zoom or will there be a teacher in the classroom??</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Debbie</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Amy Brant	<p>Amy Brant 3424 Stoner Ave</p> <p>As shown in the first few slides, is there Low/Moderate/Substantial data by zip code so we can understand infections more clearly and/or justify the Blended Learning Plan?</p> <p>What were the results of the blended/virtual parent survey?</p> <p>If a student tests positive for Covid, does every child in that school go virtual for 2 weeks? What about if siblings go to different schools?</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Wendy Mierzwinski	<p>For HS and JH, how are group A and group B being determined?</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>Wendy Mierzwinski</p> <p>16 Calkins Drive</p> <p>Reading, PA 19606</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Britney Bowman	<p>Hello my name is Britney Bowman mother of three kiddos ages 2.5,4 and 7. My daughter is in second grade at Owatin creek. I am an registered nurse in an icu in philly, I work three days a week 7-7. My husband who is also in healthcare works five days a week plus on call. We have been working through the pandemic and coming home to all of our kids and knock on wood have had no issues. I am around covid patients at work. I believe there is only so much you can do as a district and organization to protect the staff, students and others. The parents need to take some responsibility in teaching their children also. While I love having my daughter at home. She is meant to be at school physically. It is now the best environment for her at home with two younger brothers. To say that mom and dad aren't stressed would be an under statement. We both hold stressful jobs especially now a days, it is very hard to provide the best education for our daughter like this. I understand decisions and choices that have been made but living in this pandemic and actually being on the front lines. There is no right choice something will happen , I strongly believe if we cannot go back full time these kids need three days a week or a hybrid. I am honestly not a fan of the half days. I cannot fulfill my working requirements with that schedule. I have an obligation to help those who are critically ill , and also to be a. Mom but we need more flexibility. I need to know my daughter is being taught correctly and I strongly believe full day is the best option. I understand these times are awful believe me I get it, but our kids need school. I hope this helps !</p>
Shannon and Chris Moyer	<p>Good evening, I have a question regarding the special population/ special education students. How did the team decide on only 2 days a week versus all 4? I wish administration would reconsider this and have them in person 4 days a week these kids need it.</p> <p>Thank you Chris Moyer 5198 Oley turnpike road Reading PA 19606</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Kim Taffel	<p>Good Evening Dr. Minor and Ms. Gibney</p> <p>I wasn't sure where to direct my message.</p> <p>I am a parent of an Exeter 7th grader, Dylan Taffel as well as a high school teacher at Daniel Boone.</p> <p>I wanted to say that I really appreciate you putting the safety of our students, families, and staff and the forefront of your decision-making process. I was pleased that our students did not have to be the guinea pigs!</p> <p>I was looking for more information about the reopening plan and I am currently at back to school night for my job so I couldn't join the meeting. It seemed like the secondary students would not be with their actual teachers during brick and mortar synchronous learning. I can't imagine that's correct, but that's how it was interpreted in the community. I want to send my son back to school but not if he won't be with his scheduled teachers for both synchronous and asynchronous learning. (I understand they may still have to join the zoom from school but having a teacher in person with you is always an advantage).</p> <p>I was very nervous about going back to work- we are doing a hybrid model here. I have to say that I feel safe and think the routine is good for the students. Hybrid teaching is very hard on teachers- we have students in the actual classroom and on zoom at the same time and have to engage all of them. It seems to be working - every day feels a bit more normal.</p> <p>In terms of health and safety, are the groups of students who attend at one time able to socially distance in the classroom (what do the numbers look like)? Are the students on an every other day rotation (I thought I read that)? For contact tracing, would it be better to have groups change weekly (one week in, one week virtual)</p> <p>I apologize for the lengthy email. I appreciate everything you are doing. I would be happy to talk if you want to hear what we are doing here in a neighboring district (always pros and cons!).</p> <p>Thanks so much Kim Taffel</p> <p>-- Kim Taffel Math Teacher Daniel Boone Area High School kim.taffel@dboone.org 610-582-6100 ext 2330</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
jenna hankins	<p>Hi, I am at work currently so I cannot listen in on the meeting. My concern about returning to 5 partial days is that it is not beneficial to parents just the same as full virtual learning. We still have to be home during normal buisness hours. I am also concerned that doing 5 half days of am and pm is just too much work for the kid's, parents, janitors, teachers etc. Why can they not just do 2 full days and 2 or 3 virtual days like many other hybrid schools. For an example group A goes Mondays and tuesdays full days and group B goes Thursdays and Fridays full days. Then the rooms can be sanitized on wednesdays between the 2 groups instead of every single days cleaning between 2 groups. It just seems like not the smartest plan to me. Also I have 3 kids in elementary school and they will not go from being in class then coming home for lunch and back onto the computer all in the same day, it just isn't going to happen. It is too much for little ones to handle a schedule like that. I would much prefer a full reopening like Twin Valley, Garden Spot, Wilson elementary schools, Blue Mountain etc. But if that isn't going to happen I vote for 2 full in person days per week. 5 partial days is just impractical on many different levels.</p> <p>Thank you, Jenna Cabigas</p>
Sandy Walters	<p>My child is failing do to this virthal learning he has aiep and not only is he failing 1 class but all his classes</p>
JP Harron	<p>My wife and I both work in Muhlenberg. It's a 20-25 minute drive one way. How is it feasible for us to pick up or drop off our child in the middle of the day? This plan, like many others, does not take into account families with two working parents.</p>
Heather Kirlin	<p>Hi My name is Heather Kirlin. My question is: How will the furloughed employees be affected by this return? Heather Kirlin</p>
landc	<p>Please send me the zoom link for tonight's virtual meeting at your earliest convenience.</p> <p>Thank you, Leigh Anne Gatto</p> <p>Hello, I am not finding the zoom link on the school district site for tonight's meeting. The two links listed on the curriculum meeting info page (one for the SD page and one for youtube) do not work. Can you send me the zoom link?</p> <p>Thank you, Leigh Anne Gatto</p>
Sandy Walters	<p>Having trouble getting on</p>
Marybeth Eckenroth	<p>The link on the ETSD website for the meeting tonight doesn't work.</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Chrissy Mandel	<p>Hello. My name is Christine and my daughter is at Owatin Creek in second grade.</p> <p>My child has always loved school, but to see her go downhill because virtual school is “boring her” is almost too much for me to watch. I am not really sure why you are asking for our opinions, you heard the emails that were read after the meeting and you chose to ignore 95% of them. We the people of Exeter, who pay a lot in school taxes demand that our kids have the option to go back full time! My husband and I are both in high profile jobs and we are having to pay a neighbor to watch and help our kid with virtual. Dr Minor you are being a tyrant and a dictator. Leave it to us the parents to say what is safe for our children. If a parent doesn’t feel safe, let them do virtual.</p> <p>You are teaching my child that it is okay for someone to take away their rights and we should just follow suite. We are raising our child completely different! Before all this, I had a first grader who was reading at a 3rd grade level and because you are afraid of what your reputation will look like, you are running scared. You were hired for the job of superintendent, not dictator. Let our kids go back full time.</p> <p>Christine</p>
Jill King	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Jill Glennon and I have two children in the school district. One is currently being homeschooled because virtual was not working for him. I fully support this plan to start the process of getting our students back to in-person learning. I appreciate all the work everyone has done and look forward to seeing us eventually back full-time for the benefit for the students as a whole.</p> <p>Thank-you.</p>
Brittany Mountz	<p>Hello –</p> <p>I know this email comes after the meeting; however, a question that I forgot to ask and did not hear a response to, will there be any type of orientation for Kindergarteners or new students? This is my first child attending school and I would like to know there is a plan to make the transition to in school learning.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Brittany Mountz</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Alisha Corcino	<p>Hello, I appreciate the district's well researched hybrid plan for a return to in-person teaching. However, I am confused with the bussing solution. I feel like just saying, "oh well, we have to put two to a seat" is not ok. You're putting all this effort into being able to distance students and keep them safe in person, AT LEAST offer an option of more buses to accommodate one child per seat, please. I cannot imagine all of these months of distancing and safety precautions only to have them sit directly next to, shoulder to shoulder with someone outside our bubble. To expect the driver to help keep masks on while driving safely I would think is a very difficult request for a full bus. Also, I suggest a hand sanitizer requirement before they board the bus. Thank you.</p> <p>Best, Alisha Corcino</p>
Emily Noel	<p>Hi! I have a question regarding the plan for Jr High return to brick and mortar. The proposal in the meeting last night seemed very different than what was described for jr High students when the survey was sent out. Will the Jr high students who go back to school in the blended model be taught by their teachers standing in front of them? Or will they be coming in to the building, but still being taught via zoom on the chromebook? In the survey, it described that kids would go in for socialization, but would still be learning virtually via chromebook. It said they would get face to face help during asynchronous time. Last night, the plan did not seem to be the same. Can someone clarify? Emily Noel</p>
Christina Manning	<p>I'm sorry if I'm not understanding the plan correctly. The grade 7-12 students in brick and mortar, would they be switching classes? Will that be staggered somehow to avoid overcrowding the hallways? Or will they assigned to a classroom to then do their classes online via zoom?</p> <p>Christina Manning 56 Laurel Ave Birdsboro Pa 19508</p>
Christina Manning	<p>How will thing such as speech classes and gifted classes be handled in the blended model. Will those still continue virtually?</p> <p>Christina Manning 56 Laurel Ave Birdsboro PA 19508</p>

NAME	MESSAGE
Christina Herner	I have two children in the Exeter Township School District. I wanted to share that I would push for a return for all students to in person school. Online school has created excessive hours of sedentary work, much more than when they were face to face. The technology issues have added unnecessary stress. Just my opinion. Thanks, Chris Herner