

July 14, 2020

Dear School Board,

As you today discuss the issue of the reopening of our town's schools, I must bring forth several concerns that I have. If this hybrid schedule is implemented, I fear for the safety of our students, staff of the district, and all of their families. Half-capacity is still not adequate for proper social distancing, especially amongst the youngest. Even with taking the temperature of everyone entering the buildings, it is not adequate since the Sars-Cov-2 virus can be, and usually is, spread by people while they are still asymptomatic. Besides this, many people who have covid-19 remain asymptomatic through the entirety of their viral infection.

The warning signs speak loudly as we see a teacher in Arizona died of covid-19 with no students in their class, as it was a "remote" summer-school. Imagine what would happen if students *were* in the classroom. Given the efficacy of this virus it may only spread to a few students, but imagine those students have siblings that attend a different school, or parents work at a nursing home or the food industry. Do we want to play out this real-life scenario in our town?

Lastly, imagine the financial impact if we implement this course of action. How are we to fund and adequately staff an entirely different "online school"? Will not money be wasted if a couple weeks into school everything is forced to go fully remote? What will be the lawsuits our school-district, and hence the taxpayer, suffer from student's parents or staff members' families if the very-real possibility of an infectious spread occurs? It is not at all unlikely, just look at nursing homes and prisons. Now picture it with elementary school students that still put objects in their mouths and are still not self-aware of their own personal-space. This is a dangerous exercise that puts our whole community at risk.

The only safe option we should be considering is how to most effectively implement a fully remote online school. This online school **should not** force teachers to do it from school where the risks are still high (see aforementioned example with the Arizona teachers). We trust our teachers with our children every day, I think we can trust them to do their jobs from the safety of their own homes.

Regards,
Luke Hovey
Parent of two Aspen Students