1. Our HASD web page is very disorganized. Documents are all over the place and much of this is overwhelming. Can the district create a page entitled CYBER to put that info-forms, handbooks, procedures on one section? I prefer not to get my info from Facebook posts and hate to keep emailing people.
   **The District is working to create a Cyber tab for all things regarding cyber this week.**

2. Is the school helping to assist financially with a tutor and internet services?
   **The District is not providing tutoring services, but students will be able to contact their teacher during office hours at the end of their remote learning days if help is needed. The District will work with families if the internet is needed. Please contact your child’s building principal.**

3. When does cyber classes start? When is the schedule going to be posted? Is there a homeroom teacher?
   **And**
   Will cyber students be included in any virtual assemblies, field trips, picture day that may happen this year. I read that the cyber students will have a "homeroom" teacher assigned who will keep the cyber students informed of possible classroom/grade activities if there are any. But then I also heard they would not be assigned a home room teacher. Can you please clarify this?
   - **School starts for all Hopewell students on September 8.**
   - Each K-6 student will be assigned a Cyber teacher. The student will also be connected to a grade level classroom in their home building in the event of extra activities or grade level opportunities. These will be communicated to the student and/or parent via the Cyber teacher.
   - The cyber teacher will connect with families with log-in information for Compass or Edgenuity. The cyber platform will be open to all students on September 8 and the student can begin working through learning modules at their own pace. Any additional connections with the cyber teacher would be scheduled between the cyber teacher and the cyber students/families.

4. Just to clarify, there will be no deep cleaning done in the buildings and the students in the upper levels are required to clean their own desks?
   **Each month, the District will apply Bactronix to each building. This is a 30 day disinfecting treatment that kills organisms and prevents regrowth. It will also be**
reapplied if there is a positive Covid case associated with a learning space. In addition, teachers will have disinfectant in their rooms they can use, if needed and/or desired. Each night, custodial staff will clean and disinfect the learning spaces. Students are not required to clean their own desk or learning space, unless they desire to do so.

5. Also, there will be no direct learning either asynchronous or synchronous on the days the students are home using the hybrid schedule?
And
6. Many districts are offering synchronous and asynchronous options for cyber and/or hybrid options. Why wasn't HASD able to offer?
And
7. Please elaborate on the learning plan for hybrid classrooms. Will they be asynchronous, and will it be new material or a review of what they learned in class? Also, has the attendance process been improved? It doesn't make sense for parents to have to complete a form when the student is logging time in online tools.

Hybrid: Learning Platforms and Blended Learning
During hybrid, students may be working remotely for 2-3 days each week from home. Principals and teachers will be providing specific expectations for students on these days, but in general, students should expect to engage in the learning provided by their teacher on the instructional platform assigned to his or her grades level: SeeSaw in grades K-2, Google Classroom for grades 3-8, and Schoology for grades 9-12. More information on how students and parents can log-in to these platforms is forthcoming.

On remote learning days, students will be required to log-on to their homeroom (high school), first period class (Junior High), or classroom (Elementary) by 2:00 each day. Specific information will be shared with families at the start of the school year. Attendance will be taken on remote learning days beginning at 2:00 each day. If there is an extenuating circumstance, a parent should contact the teacher.

During hybrid, students should expect a blended approach to learning new material. When appropriate, students have the same learning experience while in class as they experience at home. Teachers will determine the best manner to teach students based on content and needs of students, so there may be synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities throughout the year.

For example, a student’s day of learning may include some or all of the following:
- Application of learned material from the previous face-to-face classroom day (i.e. assignments or activities),
- Watching a video or presentation from a Hopewell teacher instructing on a new skill,
• Reading an article, novel, text, book and completing accompanying assignments,
• Connecting live at a specific time with a Hopewell teacher to view instruction or to “check-in” over a specific topic,
• Watch a video from a school nurse, counselor, or principal to share information or to view specific instruction on a topic, and/or
• Engage in personalized learning software to remediate, advance, or enrich specific learning skills.

8. How many students chose non-Hopewell cyber options and how does that impact budget/services for 2020/2021 school year?
   • At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Hopewell had 95 students in a non-Hopewell cyber program. The cost associated with these 95 students was $1,758,953.62.
   • As of today, August 24, 2020, Hopewell has 137 students enrolled in a non-Hopewell cyber program. The projected cost is $2,419,303.02.
   • Current projected difference: $660,349.40.
   • Hopewell’s tuition rate is set by the state. Last year’s tuition rates were:
      o Regular Education Tuition $14,255.86 per student
      o Special Education Tuition- $32,188.56 per student

9. A few colleges have gone to straight online instruction after a week or two of in-person instruction due to COVID positive tests. What is the plan for HASD should this become an issue?
   The District is prepared for full remote/virtual instruction. Although there will be greater expectations of the frequency of synchronous learning opportunities, it will mirror the same type of instruction teachers are preparing to provide in hybrid. During teacher in-service this week and next, teachers will have the opportunity to enhance their skills or to learn any remote learning skill that is needed.

10. Since 6th grade is not changing classes will the students be grouped in their assigned classroom to continue to have educational success (ie...higher level math & ELA)?
    There are ability-based groupings in most of the rooms. However, because of increased enrollment and the success in our HASD Cyber Program, some students in the same groupings may not be all together, but in groups of 5-10 kids within one room. Our staff is and has always been skilled at differentiating instruction and content to remediate, support and enrich individuals and small groups of students.

11. When would the 8th grade students get their schedules and computers?
   The District will communicate with students and parents when the Junior High
devices are ready for pick-up. Student schedules were released this morning on CSIU.

12. Will fall sports happen?
   AND
13. Please support me in my senior year of volleyball! Thank you
   AND
14. Sports, let them play.
   AND
15. I fully believe our children should be allowed to play fall sports!
   AND
16. Will there be fall sports for my children?
   AND
17. Kids need sports for their mental health. School is already a hybrid of a mess while CV is deeming their students education essential. The PIAA voted. Why don't the parents and the students make their own choice? The virus has a 99.98% survival rate. It's not affecting the kids.
   AND
18. My daughter is an incoming freshman and plays volleyball. She LOVES volleyball. I am in support of the schools return to sports plan and the AD and coaches have done a great job. Volleyball has been practicing since July with no issues. My daughter was so excited to start practicing again after months of doing nothing and now has something to look forward to every day. I definitely saw a difference in her mentality. All because of volleyball. School sports are optional. If a parent doesn’t agree with the plan or is uncomfortable with their son or daughter playing a sport they can choose to not let their child participate. We all have choices. Just as Hopewell provided the choice of cyber school or hybrid school for all students. I choose to have my daughter play volleyball. Youth sports such as little league, club teams and AAU have all been playing since June. I’m sure their safety plans aren’t as detailed as Hopewell’s. I hope that the school board would have faith in their athletic safety plan and vote to keep Hopewell Fall Sports going as planned. These kids deserve that. Thank you.
   AND
19. Please let us play
   AND
20. No questions, asking for consideration to approve kids to play fall sports. Allow the parents the option rather than taking the programs from all the children. Consider the mental health of the kids. We must offer the children some form of social interaction and work to keep the kids active as our community works together to get thru this pandemic. Please don’t make the choice for the kids allow it to be their choice.
   This will be discussed on the agenda this evening.
21. Also concerning remote synchronous learning, it was brought up on a call that the reason which that method was not implemented was due to the lack of bandwidth. A.) Knowing since March that the pandemic may have still been a hurdle for the new school year, why wasn’t action taken to improve the technical resources and bandwidth at that time? B.) If bandwidth is the reason today to not provide remote synchronous learning, what happens to the students and class instruction if the schools have to shut down after the first week of class like we have seen in school districts and colleges/universities across the country already? 

There is a motion on tonight’s agenda that supports the increase in bandwidth for the District to support synchronous learning opportunities. We have allowed our teachers to consider the needs of students, make-up of their class, content they are delivering and choose whether synchronous or asynchronous approaches to teaching and learning are best.

22. Will we fall in line with schools like New Brighton and do all virtual for the year?

And

23. Will you be following the other districts in the county and allowing the students to attend virtually?

And

24. Can we just start the school year with teachers teaching in class and our kids logging on for classes during normal hours/schedules?

AND

25. Is the district planning to eventually go fully remote during flu season?

The District is planning to continue hybrid until there is reason that we no longer can support hybrid setting due to cases, Governor’s orders for closure, DOH orders for closure, etc… or that it is safe to re-open fully.

The following information was gathered from superintendents on August 17. At this time, there is no discussion that all schools will be opening virtually. All districts, however, as prepared to do so in the event of the need to close a building due to positive Covid cases.

- Aliquippa - Virtual
- Ambridge - Hybrid
- Beaver - Hybrid
- Big Beaver Falls - Hybrid
- Blackhawk - Full Return - Board Meeting last week and Virtual was not approved.
- Central Valley - Hybrid
- Freedom - Virtual
- Hopewell - Hybrid
- Midland - Hybrid
- New Brighton - Hybrid - Board meeting tonight to decide if they are moving to virtual.
- Riverside - Scaffold Return: primary full in person and all other students are virtual
- Rochester - Full Return
- South Side - Full Return
- Western Beaver - Hybrid

26. What happened with the cyber option, we were told that our children can go in and out of cyber or classroom as we felt necessary...but now there is a waitlist for cyber....
   And
27. I understand that there are now issues with families who wish to choose cyberlearning. Why is there now a wait list? Is it only the number of teachers available or does it also have anything to do with costs associated with using the platforms? And
28. Our district’s families were told they could transition their children to/from cyber and remote learning and back again depending on the district’s phases. Yet, for those families like mine who are initially choosing cyberlearning-not because we believe it is the best educational choice for our children,-but because it is the only option available to us in our district that keeps our children safest from the as yet unknown long-term effects of the Coronavirus if they contract it, we were planning on transitioning to remote learning when the district was in a red phase for a more meaningful educational and social, albeit virtual, experience, as well as the chance to interact regularly with teachers. However, it now appears we would no longer be guaranteed an option to go back to cyberlearning when/if the district goes back to a hybrid phase. In essence, that doubt of whether or not the district would now expect us to put our children at risk for potential long-term heart and/or neurological problems because we would be unable to transition back reliably now forces us to remain in cyberlearning.

**The District has to work through staffing the cyber program.** After the new facial guidelines, enrollment requests increased substantially. The District must work through the teachers’ Collective Bargaining Agreement to address staffing as well as follow requirements to have certain things Board approved. The administration is not permitted to place teachers in positions. The position must be posted and bid on by teachers and there are timelines to adhere to. We are working through this process, but wanted to ensure that we had teachers in place, before committing to families. There are board motions tonight that will expedite the staffing process. New enrollments and confirmation of students on the waiting list can occur tomorrow morning if the board motions adding cyber teachers are approved tonight.

The District’s goal is for parents to be able to choose what is best for your child throughout the school year.
29. The latest data and research shows that it is highly likely that Beaver County will be in a remote learning phase to begin this school year. Yet I no longer trust that my children would be able to move back to cyberlearning, because there is no option for remaining remote, and they would be expected to attend school in person. The positivity rate over the most recent seven days in Beaver County, as of August 21, 2020, is 5.3% This places the District in the moderate category as designated by the state. The state’s rate is 3.4%. Per PDE, the categories are designated as follows:

- <5% is considered low
- 5-10% is considered moderate
- >10% is considered substantial

30. My family is aware that in-person learning will not be as it was for quite some time. Our children would be spending a good portion of their day at their desks with devices far more than a year ago with masks on in buildings whose HVAC systems aren’t up to par for an aerosol-type transmission virus. We have accepted that our children will be remaining home from school for at least a year and we will deal with potential learning consequences later. I have had the impression these past few months that the district has been very resistant to providing a full-time remote learning option concurrently with hybrid for families like ours, instead punting to cyberlearning. Any questions from the public about doing so have been not answered satisfactorily during Board meetings. Such an option would provide the fewest changes for our all our students, regardless of whether families wish to keep their children home or attend school when hybrid or full-time is available. It would also give our teaching staff a clear route for planning. Plan for remote with both synchronous and asynchronous options that can modified to accommodate in-person learning without loss of learning for the remote students. For those families that require a greater deal of asynchronous learning, one or two cyber courses might be appropriate to help offset the strain…instead of all the courses. Perhaps it is time for the district to stop attempting to force a square peg into a round hole and address this issue from another angle. It is a challenging time for everyone and as more information/requirements/research becomes available, there will continue to be issues that create more problems to address…which means more last-minutes changes for everyone. Making remote learning available to any family, regardless of phase, is the most stable option there is.

AND

31. I left the choice of attending or hybrid up to my children. I would prefer them be home but they both crave the social face to face interaction. I’m hearing chatter of remaining hybrid students being switched to 5 days a week. If this is the case, they will be switching to cyber. We chose hybrid with the reassurance that transferring between hybrid and complete online would be seamless. I’m not willing to have exposure 5 days a week just because some parents choose to count on school as a free daycare. Safety first.
AND

32. Now that so many students are opting for the cyber stay at home version of school why not open up the school for kids to go in person 5 days a week? In addition if the schools are so short if rooms to educate the students why is there a classroom being used for Head Start at Hopewell Elementary and the junior high has a day program bring run by the Y which is using a classroom and space for our kids.... seems your priorities are skewed.

AND

33. Have any advancements been made in discussions to move toward remote synchronous learning rather than cyber for those students who would not have chosen cyber as an option had there not been a pandemic.

After bringing all students together in the classrooms in a hybrid setting during the month of September, the District will review the hybrid plan and consider if any modifications to the plan should be made (i.e. providing the option for students to attend 5 days/week or providing remote learning for all students for 5 days/week).

Some parents may be in favor of allowing students to attend five days, whereas others may not for safety reasons and would prefer 5 days of remote learning. If the District modifies its current hybrid plan, the thought, at this time, would be to add options for families, not to limit them.

The District’s primary focus is to open school safely on September 8, for all students, staff, and families.

The students in the YMCA program and Headstart are Hopewell students. These organizations provide services to our Hopewell families.

- We have many open spaces at the Junior High where the YMCA is located. The YMCA is supporting students during remote learning days which is a service for families who need childcare on the remote days, as well as providing before and after school child care.
- We have little remaining space in the elementary buildings. Headstart is located at Hopewell Elementary.
- The use of these spaces by these organizations is not taking away any space that the District needs to use this school year.
- The factors involved in providing students instruction in school for five days a week include, but not limited to, the need for additional classrooms, staffing to teach additional classes, ability to socially distance in classrooms, ability to provide mask breaks.
34. In regards to the HASD website: I have spoken to many people who are finding it difficult to navigate through the webpage to find important information. Any updated information should be in the updates tab (blue section on top of the page), not hidden seven clicks away under a misc. tab and link. When I click a link to send an email to staff from the website, after jumping through the firewall hurtles, I receive a notification and copy of my email that was sent. However, staff is stating they are not receiving the emails. I've sent four emails to four different people with no responses. If most communication this upcoming school year is to be done utilizing email, this glitch needs to be fixed. I've seen orientation video's for the cyber school but is there one for general remote learning, how to use Schoology and other apps, since we will be going fully remote (red) in the very near future? Parents will need this information to teach their children while they are at home. How are IEP, GIEP and 504 plans going to be followed in the red phase? How are special accommodations going to be made? Is the district following the state mandated time requirements when it comes to these educational plans? Who is going to be contacting the parents and student regarding these plans prior to the school year? I've already emailed Dr. Utchell with no response and spoke to Mr. Allison who referred me to Dr. Utchell in the first place. To the two board members who spoke at the August 10, 2020, meeting: Mr. Newberry and Mrs. Zupsic, I understand the last few months have been hard on everyone. At times, we have a tendency to take our frustrations out on people who may not deserve it. Our mental health has been tested several times over, as has everyone's across the world. Please do not take anything that is said as a personal attack. I can only speak for myself when I say the most frustrating part has been the inconsistent communication not by the two of you but by the district itself. From the issues with the webpage, staff not responding to emails or phone calls, conflicting information being provided, to public presentations being filled with inconsistencies and contradictory information. It all demonstrates a lack of professionalism and decreases our trust and confidence in the district. Surveys were sent out for parents to complete. When the decision was made to do hybrid, even though the majority of parents responded in the survey to have their children attend school five days a week, it made me feel our opinion really didn't matter in the first place. Plainly put, it was a slap in the face. When we ask questions and all we get is preplanned pass-the-buck answers: see the building principal, see this person, see that person and no one responds when we do, it gets frustrating fast. When asking specific questions regarding synchronous learning being offered in hybrid (yellow), I've been told; yes it will be available, no it won't, and refer to the presentation which waivers back and forth with no real answers provided. It's insulting. We are being patronized and disrespected. These things are contributing to the lack of trust between the parents and the district. Why do we direct our frustrations at school board members? You are our voice and make the final decisions.

- The District is working toward streamline the website so that it is more parent friendly. Thank you for the feedback.
- Although Dr. Utchell was in communication with this parent last week, families
should know that administration and secretaries can be contacted throughout the school day and respond to phone calls and emails as soon as possible. For many administrators, phone calls with parents can take 30-60 minutes and so we attempt to respond in the order in which we receive inquiries. At this time, there are many parents reaching out and we are spending the needed time to appropriately address parent concerns. Our teachers and school counselors will be in the office beginning next week. If a parent has emailed a teacher or school counselor, they may not have received parent correspondence, but they will respond as soon as they are back for the school year.

- The District is not planning at this time to move to remote/virtual learning, but we are prepared to do so, if needed. Parent guides for accessing learning platforms will be shared at the start of the school year.
- Students who have an IEP, GIEP or 504 plan will have their services, to the greatest extent possible, via remote instruction. If there is something that the district cannot provide due to remote learning, the district will work with the family to consider alternatives or other means to support student services. As always, this will be a team approach to addressing these needs, should they arise. Almost all Special and Gifted Education services can and will be provided in remote learning.
- At the July 20th board meeting, the Board passed a Resolution that provides flexibility in the PDE time requirements for school districts. This Resolution allows schools to count all remote instruction toward the instructional time requirements.
- Our Special Education Director and/or principals can work with families regarding any specific student need.
- On August 17, teacher leaders worked with administration to finalize teaching expectations during hybrid and remote instruction. These expectations include a blended approach to teaching which can include synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- As for inconsistencies in presentations, we acknowledge that this has happened. Unfortunately, the continued changing guidance as well as requirements from the state have continually changed the District’s plans. New information and guidance continues to be sent to school districts and we will adjust plans as required and necessary.
- Parent surveys were extremely important and valued as the District created the current plans. We will continue to make decisions that take into consideration 1) the safety of students, staff, and families, 2) quality learning opportunities for students, 3) parent needs and feedback, and 4) requirements and guidance from CDC, PDE, and DoH.
35. "I do have some questions about the school-issued device. In the handbook for the
device, it states there will be a district-issued case, but we did not receive one.

Also, I have a question about logging into the device. It states in the handbook students
will log-in with their school-issued email account. Where do we find information on the
school-issued email account? I don’t recall receiving this.
A staff member reached out to provide you direction on both of these items.
For all of our families, however, if there are any concerns with the devices, please
reach out to your child’s school and speak to a principal or secretary. We will
train all students on log-in procedures at the start of the school year.
Student email is not enabled at this time because the District has to complete the
remaining safety protocols in order for students to safely use District email
accounts. The students’ emails will be: The Student’s ID #@hopewellarea.org

36. How long is the wait list for cyber? I am concerned that we may be stuck in hybrid if we
as parents feel at any point in the next month that we want to take our kids out and flex
to cyber that we will have to wait even longer.
The motions on tonight’s agenda will provide an additional 70 cyber spots for
students. We needed board action in order to ensure staffing. Anyone on the
waiting list will be supported as well as any other wanting cyber options.

37. If Hopewell votes to play fall sports, what is the plan regarding transportation for away
games? How many kids will be on the bus? Will there be additional buses to allow for
separation on the bus?
The District will provide transportation for away games and will have the number
of busses required to have one student per seat. The number of seats on a bus
depends on the size of the bus. The coaches and AD will determine the number of
athletes attending each away game or event.

38. Why do bus drivers excused from wearing masks? I feel it is very irresponsible when
drivers of all forms of public transportation are required to wear them. So my child
protects them but they don’t protect my child?
Bus drivers are not excluded from wearing masks. The direction from the state is
that everyone, including drivers, MUST wear a facial covering while on the bus.
Bus drivers, however, are not allowed to wear face shields in lieu of a mask due to
the glare from the shields.

39. Will the kids have more outdoor time than classroom learning?
We are encouraging teachers to create learning opportunities for students
outside, when appropriate. During this time, students can have mask breaks if
they are socially distanced. Recess will also be outside, weather permitting.
40. Will we know the class sizes before school starts?

- Class size in grades 7-12 fluctuates period by period, but the administration has reviewed these numbers to ensure that classes are at an appropriate size to accommodate all students.
- In grades K-4, all class sizes, as of today, range from 16-25, with two fourth grades classes at 27. During hybrid, approximate class size between 8-14 with the majority of K-4 classrooms are between 10-12 on hybrid days.
- In grades 5-6, the average class size is 25 students. During hybrid, the class size is approximately 13-15 students.
- If you have a question about your child’s particular class, please reach out to your child’s school and speak to the secretary or principal.

41. Will the planned schedule be in effect for the entire school year? Would be good to be able to plan for all of 2021 when employer benefits elections come up in later fall.

The District will continue with the hybrid schedule until it is necessary or possible to change to a different model (all remote/red or full-time for all students/green).

42. I have been reading through the various plans and responses to parent question throughout the past few weeks. I’m not sure if this question was asked and answered but am interested to know the plan moving forward. With our children living through an ever changing health crisis and the response required from the DOH with masks, social distancing and hand washing, have any consideration been made into the effect this may have on their mental health? I know we have a school psychologist and intermittent support persons rotating throughout the district but am wondering if there will be additional support available to our students? Also, what remediation steps are going to be put in place for children who are trying their best to follow the mask/distancing rules but are unable to cope at all times? Will there be some sort of action plan? Or will they immediately be reprimanded with no consideration to stress or environmental triggers? I appreciate all your efforts and thank you for your time.

Over the past month, the district has provided a two day Trauma Training to approximately 25% of our teaching staff. During upcoming in-service days, all teachers will be provided additional trauma training and the District will be focusing on the teachers’ health and well-being as well. Our school counselors are preparing to address student needs as well through individual support or through classroom lessons. All students and staff will have access to Everfi which is a Social Emotional Learning program to assist individuals with any mental health needs.

In regards to facial coverings, students who are struggling due to the new requirements with facial coverings will be supported by staff. We know that this is new to everyone and we will help students and staff as they become comfortable with the new requirements. The District will address a student who is struggling to comply and a student who is refusing to wear a facial covering differently.
43. I've heard that Amy Parker is being displaced. She is the most loved teacher in all of Indy, yet she is the one that is being displaced. Please reconsider for our children's sake. Thank you.

AND

44. Right before Kindergartens were to go in and meet their teacher that they had already gotten postcards from. After teachers have been working so hard on preparing & gathering supplies and setting up classrooms for the school year- you decided it was a good idea to transfer teachers to cyber. How unfair to the teachers, after they had already bid into their positions for the year. After they'd already done so much preparation. Are you going to be constantly bouncing our kids around & assigning them new teachers based on the will of cyber families? How stressful and unfair for the teachers and the students that are not the ones changing their minds.

Thank you for your kind compliment of Mrs. Parker.

Our CBA involves a bidding process for any new or open position. I have been working in close collaboration with the Association President to ensure that the District follows the CBA and that we are supporting our teachers in the process. Positions are awarded based on seniority for those that are certified and qualified for an open position. When a teacher is displaced, the least senior teacher (in that grade level in that building) is the teacher who is displaced.

We have received a huge influx of enrollments since the new mask requirements were announced on Monday afternoon of this week. Because of this, we need to have two additional teachers. We already have seven teachers in place. The two teachers who are displaced are from Independence. They were chosen because of the number of students who are now at Independence in their grades level due to the parents choosing the cyber option.

Our kindergarten at Independence now has 40 students. We have three teachers, and we are recommending that the need is now for two teachers. This would mean that we have a class size of 20 per teacher with approximately 10 students on each hybrid day.

Our second grade at Independence now has 47 students. We have three teachers, and we are recommending that the need is now for two teachers. This would mean we have a class size of 23/34 per teacher with approximately 12-13 students on each hybrid day.

We agree that changes before the start of the school year are difficult for students, families, and for the teachers who are impacted.
45. "Inquiring how non mask wearing students with an IEP will be handled. Rumors have circulated that they will be ostracized from classmates in one classroom for non mask wearers. Have tried too call for clarification, but have not received a response. This severely may modify my decision of method of education for all of my children. It is illegal to segregate children based on health issues from peers."

**Students who are exempt from wearing facial coverings will not be ostracized.**

Our teachers are very aware of the needs of ALL students in classrooms; medical needs, learning needs, needs identified in a 504 Plan or IEP, and behavioral needs of ALL students are all taken into consideration when seating arrangements are created in a classroom. In addition, staff medical concerns are also taken into consideration. If any parent is concerned about seating arrangements, please contact your child’s teacher in order to share any concerns or ask any questions.

46. "Can you please address what is being done with shared teachers in the elementary school. For example, I'm very uncomfortable because the art teacher has to travel to three buildings. Not only to teach but as cover for teacher planning periods. This is really increasing exposure across our elementary schools to every Child the art teacher/music/gym comes near as well as risking the teacher as well as cover teacher planning periods. This is really increasing exposure across our elementary schools to every Child the art teacher/music/gym comes near as well ask risking the teacher AND

47. Can something be set up for art/music/computers where they teach live out of one building and stream into the actual classroom? That lesson could then be recorded for those that are doing online schooling? The fact that the special teachers are responsible for 900 students in three buildings is absolutely ridiculous and shows that we do not focus on things outside of reading and math. The arts are very important to growth"

AND

48. How will specials be handled in the elementary schools? Will classes rotate through the special classrooms? What about the teachers that travel to various schools?

**Our Elementary specials include Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and Computer.** Our Elementary specialists will be holding instruction in the students’ classrooms so that students can remain in one classroom for the majority of the day. All of our specialists may take students outside for instruction, if appropriate. Our specialists will have facial coverings and will wash hands or use hand sanitizer when entering any new learning space. Most of our specialists are in the same building each day, although they do travel to two buildings 1-2 days a week. The specials are extremely important for all students. Although technology can assist with remote or asynchronous lessons, the District is trying to provide as much in-person instruction for students as possible, as long as we provide this
safely.

49. On August 20, Tom Wolf announced approximately 20 million dollars to help schools provide compensatory education services for students with special needs who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Based on the Department of Education website it states “The funding includes $15 million from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund and $5 million from the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s (PDE) federal funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).”

“The Special Education COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Grant (SECIM) will provide $15 million in financial support ($10M GEER; $5M IDEA) to local education agencies to:

- Provide enhanced synchronous (real-time) instruction to bolster remote services and supports for students with complex needs; and
- Provide services and supports to students with disabilities who experienced a loss in skills and behavior and/or a lack of progress due to the mandatory school closures"

According to the disbursement, Hopewell was granted $17,087.30. How and when will the district roll out the plan to determine how these funds will be allocated for all the students that missed several related services during the Covid-19 mitigation effort? Will the plans be discussed individually with each family to determine the most appropriate plan for delivery of compensatory services? Will teachers and/or related service providers be given a voice of input on appropriateness for students?

The District received notification of the grant last week. The next step is to complete all necessary applications in order to receive funding. Through the grant application, the District will review the expenditures that are allowable. Per the Bureau of Special Education, in order to proceed in providing any additional services due to the closure of schools, the District will need to gather data to determine the additional needs for each student who has an IEP. This will occur in the coming months. Once we receive this data, plans for additional services will be formed with input from parents and educators.

50. Since the Indy 3rd grade laptops weren’t provided a protective case, does this mean we aren’t liable if it's damaged? If not, how do we request a protective case, since the paperwork I signed stated I would keep the device in a case.

The District will look into the devices that do not currently have cases and will share information and guidance to parents as soon as possible.
51. The district will not install air conditioning or any ventilation changes. The schools become very warm and classrooms get above 90 degrees. Children will be wearing masks for a long time in stuffy heat. What plans are being made to help children learn in that environment and also stay compliant with mask wearing?

We acknowledge that many rooms do not have air conditioning in the schools. We moved back the start date to September 8 to hopefully avoid the hot days in August. We are also dismissing students earlier in the day so they aren’t in classrooms as long in the afternoons. Teachers will be able to move their class outside at any time it is appropriate and needed. Also, on extremely hot days, we will try to move students into rooms that do have air conditioning for at least a portion of the school day. We can always increase mask breaks as needed.

52. How many IT workers are there? Will this be enough to meet increased technology needs?

We have three employees in our Technology Department: 1) Technology Director 2) Technology Specialist and 3) Infrastructure Engineer. We also have a Tech Coach and Cyber Coordinator at the High School. We also have extra support provided by Questeq when needed for special projects like device deployment, inventory, etc… At this time, everyone is extremely busy, but we are able to support technology needs.

53. How will the first day of school work for those of us who have children in the Wednesday/Friday group? (The 8th is Tuesday)

Students will be expected to log into their learning platform and participate in all of their scheduled class(es). Our teachers are skilled; they are preparing activities that are consistent for Group A and Group B for both of their first “remote days”.

More information on Junior High device pick up and how to access Google Classroom/Schoology/See Saw is forthcoming.

54. How is it acceptable to use "beyond end of life HVAC" systems during a pandemic for a period of 18 months while the bid process is completed (as explained two weeks ago by Dr. Miller)? During these unprecedented times is there any way to fast track this process to keep our children and staff as safe as possible?

Once school begins, the District will refocus efforts to address the needed capital improvement projects in the District.
55. How will you prevent parents being told they are on a "wait-list" for cyber in the future since you have told us that we can flex our children at any time?

The motions on the Board agenda tonight allow for 70 students beyond the students already on the waitlist.

56. Last meeting I asked how you will address a potential influx into in-person learning, regarding the displaced classes. Dr. Miller stated that we "had the means to recreate those classrooms." Please be more detailed and provide an answer. Will the displaced teachers who are now in cyber positions be moved from their new positions and be put back into the classrooms they previously taught? What will happen to their cyber job duties?

Each cyber position is connected to a classroom position that was temporarily eliminated at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. In most cases, students returning to in-person learning can be placed in the existing classrooms, as most enrollment numbers are under 15 in hybrid. If this was not the case, the cyber teacher connected to that classroom position would return to the classroom and teach in-person. Because most of the positions were from grades levels that still

57. What will be the process to flex out of cyber into in-person learning?

The parent should contact the cyber teacher. In turn, the cyber teacher will contact the principal to arrange for a start date and classroom placement.

58. What is the lowest class size the school would operate? (For example if a large majority of elementary children enrolled in cyber, and each classroom only had 4-6 children in the hybrid schedule, would the school still operate?)

The District has not identified a minimum class size needed to stay operational. There are many factors that would be considered before the District would consider closing any particular classroom, building, or the District.

59. At such an important time where our custodial staff is need more than ever, why is the district downsizing that department?

- The District had a retirement of an eight hour custodian at the Junior High last month. We have been monitoring the JH positions over the past year as they were assigned multiple spaces that are empty or unused classrooms, thus it is not necessary to clean these spaces on a daily basis. It is our recommendation that the learning spaces in the Junior High can be fully cleaned and disinfected each night with the staffing reconfiguration we have proposed. The board motion only applies to the elimination of one position and only at the JH.
• The District will not be having events, at least for the first semester, that require set up by custodians. Assemblies, performances, etc... take a lot of time by custodians to prepare for. We will use this additional time for all custodians to clean. This applies at the JH, but also across all other buildings too.
• Also, we will also be applying Bactronix to classrooms each month. This is a 30 day disinfectant that kills viruses.

60. Does the district have an adequate pool of substitute teachers? How many? Specials at the elementary level have already been cancelled regularly due to no teacher, how will that be addressed to improve?

   The District uses Kelley’s Sub service to provide substitute teachers. The District has recently emergency certified 12 additional subs. With other local districts implementing virtual learning at the start of the school year, we are anticipating being able to utilize these subs.

61. Does the district have enough buses to transport all the students currently enrolled in hybrid learning.

   Yes.

62. Mrs. Bonnie Miller, statement regarding custodial positions

63. Sue Masley, reading of Mrs. Masley’s Retirement Letter

64. Questions for Mrs. Dobo, Board President from Michael Leonard:

   It has been understood since early in the pandemic that school as we know it would have to change and adapt to the new reality for a world amid a global pandemic. It is hard to criticize the teachers for instruction from March through June as they did not have adequate time to prepare and the district truly lacks the infrastructure and expertise to deliver true synchronous online instruction.

   In the six months since education has changed the administration has failed to develop a true synchronous cyber school option in favor of using an asynchronous cyber program. This has been very disappointing to many Hopewell families. It is estimated that 40 or more students, in addition to students from previous years, have utilized school choice to move to a true Cyber School. The board has publicly stated it cost at least $12,000 per year per student (more for students with IEP’s) to attend charter
schools. This adds at least an additional half million dollars to the district’s expenses in addition to the cost for the previously enrolled students.

• How many students has the district failed and lost to charter schools?

Students attend charter schools for many reasons. I would be cautious before assigning words such as “failed”. This is not just a Hopewell or Pennsylvania issue, this is a nationwide issue. No one could have predicted the situation we are in now.

I think each of the students who attend a charter school should be considered as individuals with different reasons that they have chosen or their parents have chosen charter education. Students have chosen or their parents have chosen charter education. For instance, Lincoln Park is a charter school and students who are focused on the arts may choose this because of their passion for the arts and future career interests.

We have a highly trained staff capable of delivering quality education. Any shortcomings that occurred in the spring have been addressed. Administration and teachers have worked tirelessly to create a plan that changes daily with changing recommendations from CDC, PDE, and DOH.

• What do you project the district’s total expense for students enrolled in charter schools?

- At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Hopewell had 95 students in a non-Hopewell cyber program. The cost associated with these 95 students was $1,758,953.62.
- As of today, August 24, 2020, Hopewell has 137 students enrolled in a non-Hopewell cyber program. The projected cost is $2,419,303.02.
- Current difference: 42 students at a cost of $660,349.40.
- Hopewell’s tuition rate is set by the state.
  - Regular Education Tuition $14,255.86 per student
  - Special Education Tuition- $32,188.56 per student
- What is the district’s plan to deal with the additional expense?

The District reduced costs and expenditures in the 2020-2021 budget in preparation for additional costs associated with school re-opening.

• Has the district identified how they failed these students and what steps are being taken to correct these failures to invite students to return?

The District did not become aware of enrollment at cyber charter schools until last week, as the charter schools do not send the enrollment information to the District when the student enrolls. The administrative team received the list of students
and will be reaching out to families to identify how we can best support their child(ren) should they desire to return to our schools and program options.

• There are 14 cyber charter schools in the Commonwealth. Some are very successful with enrollment of over 10,000 students. Several cyber charter CEO’s have publicly stated that they have offered brick and mortar LEAs assistance with cyber education.

  o Has the district ever been offered assistance from a charter school?

    Not that I am aware of.

  o Has the district ever requested assistance from a cyber charter school?

    Not that I am aware of, but our Hopewell Cyber program is utilizing Seneca Valley for professional development for our cyber program.

    • If "no" why?

    The District would be open to any assistance that could benefit our students.

• Was a synchronous option ever considered for students who feel it is not safe to return to the classroom?

  Synchronous was considered.
  In the spring, there were concerns from educators regarding synchronous learning. The District worked through many of the concerns and will offer synchronous learning as an option for teachers, as well as asynchronous.

As Dr. Miller stated, after students return to school safely in the month of September, the District will review the hybrid plan and consider if any modifications to the plan should be made. Some parents would like students to attend 5 days/week, whereas others would like remote learning for students for 5 days/week. The District’s primary focus is to open school safely on September 8 in a hybrid setting, for all students, staff, and families.

• It is believed that the contracts for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent expire in the spring of 2021. Will this board or the board following the spring election determine if those contracts will be allowed to expire.

If these contracts are expiring in 2021, the superintendent and assistant superintendent will be notified. These are personnel matters and they will be addressed in an Executive Session.