

From: [Madison Meehan](#)
To: [SPCSA Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: 11/06/2020 Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:18:26 PM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2020-11-02 at 9.47.48 PM.png](#)

To Whomever It May Concern,

In light of recent developments, I feel that it is imperative to address the State Public Charter School Authority regarding the issue of reopening our schools and/or moving forward with the hybrid model. I implore you to please consider all of the COVID-19 data that our county, state, and federal government have released over the last several weeks. There is an overabundance of evidence that clearly shows cases are rising at an alarming rate, and therefore pose a considerable risk to the students and staff in Clark County schools.

Indisputable health risks aside, there are additional reasons why we should consider the return to full virtual, effective immediately. The need for consistency has been a prominent issue among both our teachers and students. Returning to (and remaining) virtual will provide all of us with the steady expectations and sense of normalcy that we all desperately need. Not only have Clark County teachers improved significantly in virtual teaching, but the students are finally starting to fall into a virtual learning routine as well. Returning to campus means disrupting the only sense of regularity in our students' lives and putting their families at risk of exposure in the process. Our school has already had to quarantine multiple students who had been exposed, and several teachers as well. Between students and teachers being in and out of quarantine, we will have little to no sense of consistency. We cannot continue to switch back-and-forth between virtual and in-person learning, and the truth is: in-person learning is not a safe option for anyone for the time being. Sadly, in-person learning may not be a safe option *for the rest of the school year*, if COVID-19 trends continue on this trajectory.

Clark County has been very detailed in their proposals for reopening schools; However, there is nothing in any reopening plan about what happens when cases get worse, as they have. If we closed the school buildings for the safety of our students and staff when cases were much lower, why is it suddenly safe to go back now that cases have skyrocketed? If our charter schools continue to bring more teachers and students back into the building, are we just expected to accept the risk involved in that plan?

The attachments I have included in this email were posted on CCSD's website as well as SNHD on October 19, 2020. Since then, we have unfortunately only gotten worse. Clark County is averaging 700-1000+ new cases a day, over 350 new cases (per 100,000) in the last two weeks, and our positive test rate has not dropped. At this moment, we are far exceeding what SNHD considers "highest risk of transmission in schools" and it is guaranteed to only worsen as we get farther into flu season. Reopening schools at this point would be irresponsible and could lead to unnecessary deaths in our community.

As a teacher with an autoimmune disease that puts me at high risk for COVID-19 complications, I am absolutely *terrified* now that our charter school has started to send us back to campus utilizing the hybrid model. My family has been completely quarantined since March and now my job is putting us all at risk. I know that I am not the only teacher in this position and I know that we have a lot of families at our school expressing this same fear.

This year has obviously been extremely difficult for everyone involved, and it doesn't look like this is going to end any time soon. Our options are to either jeopardize the health of thousands of public charter students, staff members, and families by continuing to reopen the schools, or return to full virtual until Clark County's rates drop significantly. I urge you to please keep our fellow Nevadans safe and consider all of the risks involved in reopening our schools and/or continuing with the hybrid model currently in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Madison Meehan