

West Essex Regional School District Board of Education Meeting

July 21, 2021



Reports

- Board President - Mary Wojtowicz
- Superintendent - Damion Macioci
- Director of Curriculum - Ryan Gupta

Superintendent Report

- District Planning Team - Meeting #1 - July 14, Meetings #2, #3 - August 4, 11
- 28 Member Team
 - Board Members (2)
 - Central Office (3)
 - Administrators - Principals, Directors, & Supervisors (8)
 - Teachers - WEMS and WEHS (3)
 - Support Staff - WEMS (1)
 - Healthcare - School Physician, Public Health Officer, and Nurse (3)
 - Students - WEMS (2) and WEHS (2)
 - Parents - Essex Fells, Fairfield, North Caldwell, & Roseland (4)

DISTRICT PLANNING TEAM

Name	Position
Buccino, Bethany	Parent - Essex Fells (1)
Cappello, Jarrod	Teacher - WEHS
Celentano, Lauren	Parent - Fairfield (2)
Conti, Christine	Parent - Roseland (1)
Diliberto, Caesar	Principal - WEHS
Dolce, Jody	Teacher - WEHS
Donlevie, Gina	Principal - WEMS
Fredo, Louise	Secretary - WEMS
Gupta, Ryan	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Hoebee, Julie	Assistant Principal - WEHS
Hulse, Lisa	Director of Guidance
Kida, Melissa	Business Administrator
Kinsey, Karen	Nurse - WEHS
Macioci, Damion	Superintendent
Papamarkos, Anthony	Student - WEMS (Grade 8)
Perotti, Frank	Board Member (Roseland)

DISTRICT PLANNING TEAM

Name	Position
Pontidis, Spiro	Student - WEHS (Grade 12)
Prince, Sam	Student - WEHS (Grade 12)
Sceppaguerccio, Paul	Parent - North Caldwell (2)
Schlam, Everett	School Physician
Skounakis, Ilias	Student - WEMS (Grade 8)
Sommer, Lauren	Teacher - WEMS
Swanick, Lisa	Supervisor of Music & Arts
Symmons, Tania	Director of Special Services
Tamburri, Lisa	Assistant Principal - WEMS
Wallace, Bill	Public Health Officer (Caldwell, North Caldwell)
Westervelt, Kimberly	Assistant Principal - WEHS
Wojtowicz, Mary	Board President (North Caldwell)

Superintendent Report

Agenda

District Planning Team Meeting - July 14

- Vaccination
- Communication
- Masks
- Physical Distancing
- Hand Hygiene
- Meals
- Transportation

1.1 Vaccination

- Not all school-aged children are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Most K-12 schools will have a mixed population of fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals.
- Layering of preventive measures to protect individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are encouraged to have a system in place to determine the vaccination status of students and staff.
- If an LEA is unable to determine the vaccination status of individual students or staff, those individuals should be considered not fully vaccinated.
- ***Fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to quarantine if determined to be a close contact.***

1.1 Vaccination

- Essex County conducted vaccination clinics exclusively for employees and teachers of Essex County, in addition to residents: essexcovid.org
- This information was disseminated to all employees within our school district.
- Survey administered to students via parent/guardian and employees on July 15

Why is it important for schools to be aware of COVID-19 vaccination status?

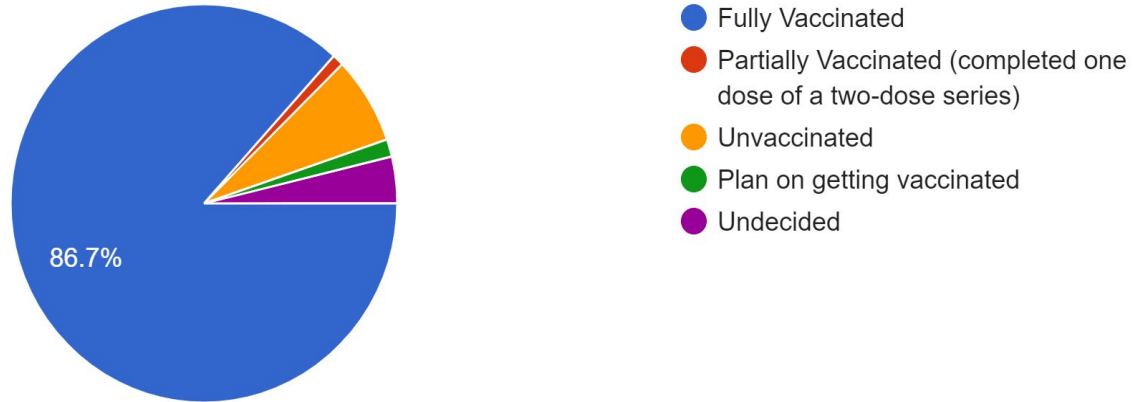
- If a vaccinated child is exposed to COVID-19 at school or a school function, the school will be able to exclude them from mandatory quarantine. The child can continue to attend school in-person and participate in sports and extracurricular activities.
- It is important for the school to be able to safeguard its students by monitoring rates of transmission and being able to evaluate if those rates of transmission are via vaccinated or unvaccinated students.
- Although schools are monitoring social distancing guidelines, evaluations of vaccination percentages would help to ensure the best practices for safety are being implemented.

Vaccination Survey Results (84%)

Employees (250)

What is your vaccination status?

211 responses

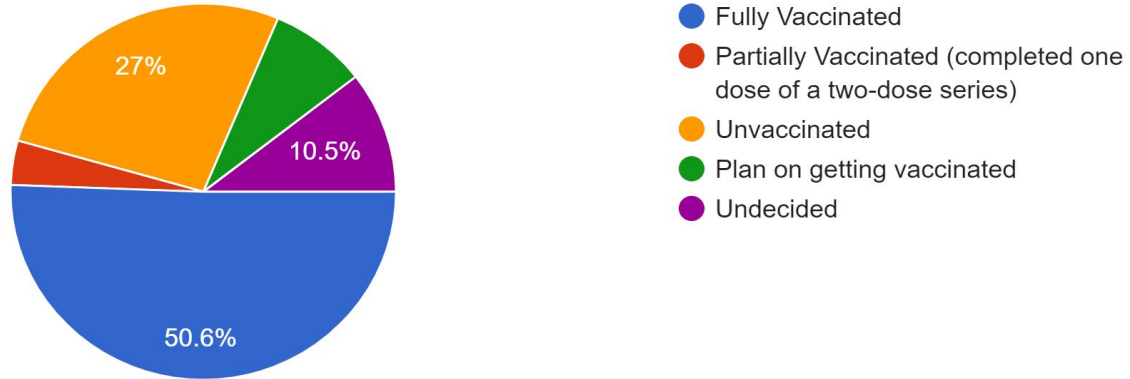


Vaccination Survey Results (62%)

Students (1686) Grades 7-12

What is your child's vaccination status?

1,050 responses



1.2 Communication

School officials and local health departments should maintain close communication with each other to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures and to establish procedures for Local Health Department (LHD) notification and response to COVID-19 illness in school settings.

- **Health Department - West Orange (Serves Essex Fells):**
- **Health Department - West Caldwell (Serves Fairfield and North Caldwell):**
 - **Health Department - East Hanover (Serves Roseland):**

1.3 Masks

- **Governor Murphy:** (June 28) Masking by students will not be mandatory in school buildings unless their school district decides to require masking as part of its own protocols.
- **The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year** - (June 28) - Wearing masks is an important prevention strategy to help slow the spread of COVID-19, especially when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings.
- **Transportation:** Per Order of the CDC, passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses

***Updated CDC guidance on masking in this setting is expected prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year and will factor into the final recommendations from the State for masking this fall.
This guidance will be updated following that release.***

1.3 Masks

- **CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (July 9)**
 - Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Community Transmission - Moderate Level** (12 weeks)
- **District Planning Team** - will meet again in August to make a final decision on masking procedures for the fall, following the latest guidance from the CDC, NJDOH, NJDOE, in addition to, review of community transmission rates, public health recommendations, and/or analysis of data.
- **West Essex - leaning towards optional masking for 2021-2022**

1.4 Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting

- Consider maintaining three feet of distance between students in classroom settings to the extent possible.
- Consider structural interventions within classrooms to aid with social distancing including: Facing desks in the same direction and avoiding grouped seating arrangements.
- Consider approaches to implement physical distancing in spaces where students may gather such as hallways and auditoriums, during outdoor activities, and during indoor activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise.
- Consider maintaining cohorts or groups of students with dedicated staff who remain together throughout the day, including at recess, lunchtimes, and while participating in extracurricular activities.

1.5 Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Reinforce hand washing.
- Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes.
- Maintain adequate supplies (soap and hand sanitizer).

****Signage will remain throughout the campus/buildings****

1.6 Meals

Consider implementing other layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

- Maintaining physical distancing between students and staff, if possible.
- Considering alternatives to use of group dining areas such as eating in classrooms or outdoors.
- Staggering eating times to allow for greater physical distancing.
- Maintaining student cohorts and limiting the mixing between groups, if possible.
- Avoiding self-serve food options.
- Discouraging students from sharing meals.
- Encouraging routine cleaning between groups.

***West Essex High School is strongly considering “Open Campus”
for seniors for lunch (270 students).***

1.7 Transportation

School buses should be considered school property for the purpose of determining the need for prevention strategies.

- Masks must be worn by all passengers on buses, regardless of vaccination status per CDC's Federal Order (school day, athletics, extracurricular, field trips, etc).
- If occupancy allows, maximize physical distance between students.
- Open windows to increase airflow in buses and other transportation, if possible.
- Regularly clean high touch surfaces on school buses at least daily.

Director of Curriculum Report

Summer Programs 2021 (In-Person)

- Extended School Year (ESY) - Special education and services (June 28 - August 5)
- MS Summer Improvement Program - Remediation for MS students who struggled in Math, ELA, Science, and/or Social Studies (June 28 - August 5)
- NEW In-person Educere - Online credit recovery option with in-person support and guidance for HS students (June 28 - August 5)
- *NEW Summer Offerings* - Programs designed to fill learning gaps, reinforce skills needed for next year's course, and/or provide in-person enrichment opportunities that students were unable to experience due to COVID (June 28 through August 26)
 - Course descriptions and registration form sent out on June 28

Director of Curriculum Report

New Summer Program Offerings

(Over 200 responses, ***additional sessions added***)

- Head Start Math (MS) - July 12-15
- Head Start Math (HS) - July 19-22
- ***Head Start ELA (MS) - July 19-22, Aug. 2-5***
- ***Robotics Camp (MS/HS) - July 26-29, Aug. 9-12***
- Art Exploration Camp (HS) - July 26-29
- ***SAT Prep Bootcamp (Math/ELA) - Aug. 2-5***
- ***Art Exploration Camp (MS) - Aug. 9-12, 16-19***
- Instrumental Music Camp (MS) - Aug. 16-19
- Graphic Novel Workshop (MS) - Aug. 23-26
- Sustainability Institute (HS) - Aug. 23-26

Full descriptions of each program can be found [here](#) and are posted on our HS and MS websites.

Upcoming Board Meetings

West Essex Middle School Cafeteria Classroom

Monday, August 16 - 7:30 pm

Monday, August 30 - 7:30 pm

[West Essex Youtube](#)

For Board Information:

https://www.westex.org/district/board_of_education