

August Agenda

Special Committee Meeting

revised August 11, 2020

A special committee meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for **Thursday, August 13, 2020** at **6pm virtually via Zoom**. (All policies can be found at www.gallatingatewayschool.com.)

Call to Order

Presiding Trustee's explanation of procedures

Public Comment- Non Agenda Items- Sign in sheet

New Business

Resignation- Certified Teacher- Jamie Poukish

Resignation- Assistant Cook- Brooke Savage

Consider Hiring Elementary Teacher

Discuss and Consider Gallatin Gateway School Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 School year

Adjournment

Due to COVID-19 public health concerns, and social distancing restrictions the meeting will be conducted by electronic means. Members of the public will be able to observe and participate in the meeting by utilizing an online platform. Please use one of the following options if you wish to participate:

1. Download the mobile Zoom app from Google Play or Apple Store
 - a. Meeting ID: 811 5785 8919
 - b. Passcode: 075427
2. Use the following link to access online:
 - a. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81157858919?pwd=dmd3RHhNPk09MREdH6C9YRU5TaWpE5UT09>
 - b. Meeting ID: 811 5785 8919
 - c. Passcode: 075427
3. Call in:
 - a. +1 669 900 6833
 - b. Meeting ID: 811 5785 8919
 - c. Passcode: 075427

"The Gallatin Gateway School community empowers our students to take responsibility for their learning so they may achieve their individual potentials as lifelong learners and productive citizens."

Excerpt from GGS Policy #1441- Audience Participation

Audience Participation

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. The Board also recognizes the statutory and constitutional rights of the public to participate in governmental operations. To allow fair and orderly expression of public comments, the Board will permit public participation through oral or written comments during the “public comment” section of the Board agenda and prior to a final decision on a matter of significant interest to the public. The Chairperson may control such comments to ensure an orderly progression of the meeting.

Individuals wishing to be heard by the Chairperson shall first be recognized by the Chairperson. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The Chairperson may interrupt or terminate an individual’s statement when appropriate, including when statements are out of order, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings. It is important for all participants to remember that Board meetings are held in public but are not public meetings. Members of the public shall be recognized and allowed input during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Cross Reference: 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure

Legal Reference: Article II, Section 8, Montana Constitution – Right of participation
Article II, Section 10, Montana Constitution – Right of privacy
§§ 2-3-101, et seq., MCA Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard

“The Gallatin Gateway School community empowers our students to take responsibility for their learning so they may achieve their individual potentials as lifelong learners and productive citizens.”

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, GALLATIN GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT #35**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the Gallatin Gateway School District #35 met at 6:00pm on Thursday, August 13, 2020, in the Gallatin Gateway School Board Room and via Zoom. Board Chair Aaron Schwieterman presided and called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Aaron Schwieterman, Board Chair; Julie Fleury, Vice Chair; Carissa Paulson, Patti Ringo

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Mary Martin

STAFF PRESENT

Theresa Keel, Superintendent; Carrie Fisher, District Clerk; Ashley Davis, Teacher; Bobbie Jo McClure, Kitchen Manager; Erica Clark, Administrative Secretary; Nicole Grafel, Teacher/Counselor; Neal Krogstad, Teacher; Fraulein Jaffe, Assistant District Clerk and Mike Coon, Teacher

OTHERS PRESENT

No sign-in sheet due to COVID-19 and meeting being held virtually

Ann Prescott, Brittany Flanigan, Cassandra Elwell, Adam Racow, Lessa Racow, CJ Smith, Louise Steed, Lynn Nowlin, Max Harrison, Misti Richardson, Morgan Stuart, Sara Eykelbosch, Sara Richardson, Wendy Hourigan, Khallee Greer, Kelsey Kearns-Daniel, George Wittle, and Megan Huffman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting attendees recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

PRESIDING TRUSTEE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES

Board Chair Aaron Schwieterman explained the public comment process to be followed for addressing the Board in accordance with Gallatin Gateway School policy. He noted: 1) that prior to a vote the public may comment on agenda items; 2) there will be time for public comment on non-agenda items; 3) public comment periods are not intended to be a question and answer session.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation- Certified Teacher- Jamie Poukish

Motion: Julie Fleury to terminate, by mutual agreement, the 2020-2021 contract of Miss Jamie Poukish.

Seconded: Trustee Patti Ringo

Public Comment: None

For: Fleury, Paulson, Ringo, Schwieterman

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

Resignation- Assistant Cook- Brooke Savage

Motion: Trustee Patti Ringo to acknowledge and accept the resignation of Brooke Savage, Assistant Cook effective immediately.

Seconded: Trustee Carissa Paulson

Public Comment: None

For: Fleury, Paulson, Ringo, Schwieterman

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

Consider Hiring Elementary Teacher

Motion: Vice Chair Julie Fleury to hire Hailee Olsen as a 1.0 FTE certified teacher for the 2020-2021 academic year to be placed at the appropriate spot in the negotiated salary matrix based on educational attainment and years of experience (not to exceed five years). The successful hire further pending adequate fingerprint/background check.

Seconded: Trustee Carissa Paulson

Public Comment: None

For: Fleury, Paulson, Ringo, Schwieterman

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

Discuss and Consider Gallatin Gateway School Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 School year

The Board reviewed and discussed the Reopening plan recommended by Superintendent Theresa Keel. Ms. Keel also reviewed the community survey results with the Board regarding reopening preferences from parents. Trustee Mary Martin was absent from the meeting but provided written input regarding the reopening plan.

Motion: Trustee Carissa Paulson to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Keel and approve the Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 school year with K-8 Face-to-Face instruction and allow Superintendent Keel to make adjustments to plan as needed and as the COVID-19 emergency progresses and as recommendations change from the CDC, County Health Department or mandated by state officials.

Seconded: Vice Chair Julie Fleury

Public Comment: Misti Richardson, Cassandra Elwell, Morgan Stuart, Sara Richardson

For: Fleury, Paulson, Schwieterman

Opposed: Ringo

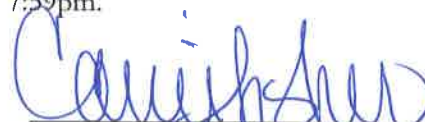
Motion passed 3-1

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Aaron Schwieterman adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.



Aaron Schwieterman, Board Chair



Carrie Fisher, District Clerk

Agenda Item: Resignation- Certified Teacher- Jamie Poukish

Background:

Miss Jamie Poukish was offered a contract for the 2020-2021 school year and she signed and returned the contract within the 20-day window. However, Miss Poukish has submitted her formal letter of resignation (attached).

Certified contract signed by Miss Poukish for the 2020-2021 school year states:

(6) Resignations submitted to take effect at a time other than the end of the school term shall be out of order except by mutual agreement. When a contract has been terminated by mutual agreement, the School District shall be obligated to pay that portion of the salary provided in this contract that has been earned up to and including the last day of school.

The Board is being asked to mutually agree to allow Jamie Poukish to terminate her contract with Gallatin Gateway School. At this time, there has not been anything paid to the employee for the execution of the contract. Therefore, there would be no salary costs to the District to terminate the contract.

The Superintendent completed the interviewing process for Miss Poukish's replacement and will present that recommendation in a different agenda item at this meeting.

Recommended Motion: to terminate, by mutual agreement, the 2020-2021 contract of Miss Jamie Poukish.

7/29/20

Dear Theresa Keel,

Please accept this letter as a formal notice of my resignation from my position as the Second Grade Teacher at Gallatin Gateway School, effective July 29, 2020.

After much consideration I have decided to stay home to raise my new baby. This decision was not taken lightly as I have cherished my time at Gallatin Gateway School. I appreciate the opportunities Gallatin Gateway School has given me and will forever be grateful for the experience and time to grow and learn as an educator.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to offer a smooth transition for the individual that is hired to take over responsibilities as the Second Grade Teacher.

Sincerely,

Jamie Poukish

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie Poukish". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

August 7, 2020
Carrie Fisher
Gallatin Gateway School

Dear Carrie,

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from the position as Assistant Cook.

I appreciate the opportunities that you have given me over the year, and will miss our instructions.

While I am excited by the new opportunities that I will be pursuing, I will always remember my time at the Gallatin Gateway School.

Sincerely,
Brooke Savage

Brooke Savage

Hire Recommendation: Teacher

Recommended Motion: I move to hire Hailee Olsen as a 1.0 FTE certified teacher for the 2020-2021 academic year to be placed at the appropriate spot in the negotiated salary matrix based on educational attainment and years of experience (not to exceed five years). The successful hire further pending adequate fingerprint/background check.

Teacher Hire Recommendation

To hire a 1.0 FTE teacher for the 2020-2021 academic year who will be placed at the appropriate place in the negotiated salary matrix based on education and years of experience (not to exceed five (5) years experience).

Recommendation:

Hailee Olsen

Rationale:

Interviews were conducted June 15 before a hiring committee composed of: Theresa Keel, Ashley Davis, Mike Coon, Jamie Hetherington and Rochelle DeGroot. There were four qualified applicants that the committee interviewed for the position.

Hailee is a native of Gallatin Gateway and has her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Her experience has been through her Practicum in schools in both Bozeman and Livingston, Montana. She student taught at Meadowlark Elementary in Bozeman. She has been a coach for Volleyball, and Girls and Boys Basketball in Gallatin Gateway. She has been a volunteer mentor in the Child Advancement Project in Bozeman. The interview team was impressed with Hailee as a candidate for a Primary teaching position.



Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

Superintendent's Recommendation: K-8 Face-to-Face Instruction

School Reopening Plan

Cleaning and Sanitation -- This is not an inclusive list of all cleaning done in the school

<p>Classrooms, Science Lab, Computer Lab, Library, Music Room and Art Room</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nightly sanitizing of all classroom desks, tables, chair uppers, door knobs, classroom sinks, fixtures, and light switches • Classroom computer monitors and keyboards sanitized by students after each use and 2 times per week by Custodial Services. • Students will have regular hand washing schedules, developed by teacher -- minimum 3X per day. • Students must wash hands immediately prior to lunch and after students have been outside for class or recess. • Students must sanitize their hands after lunch and before recess. • Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom. • Learning Carrels will be cleaned each day.
<p>Gymnasium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will wash hands before and after PE. • Athletic equipment will be sanitized between groups.
<p>Restrooms, Locker Rooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nightly sanitizing of toilets, urinals, sinks, counters, mirrors, soap and towel dispensers, fixtures, partition walls, frames, stall doors and floors. • Students will be reminded to wash hands with soap and



Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

Restrooms, Locker Rooms Continued	<p>water prior to leaving the restroom or locker room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Sanitizer is also available in the restrooms.
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground equipment will be sanitized after each group. • Students will wash their hands with soap and water upon returning from recess and prior to entering the classroom.
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nightly sanitizing of all windows, benches, doors, handles and frames. • All individuals will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. • Weekly sanitizing of exterior of lockers.
Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will be sanitized after each route. • Hand sanitizer available when students enter or exit the bus.

Illness prevention/Action

Mask/Cloth Face Covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals are required to wear face shields or masks in the building and on the bus • GGS will supply every student with washable cloth face masks.
Student/Staff Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any individual with COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home. • Parents are asked to take their child/children's temperatures prior to boarding the bus or bringing them



Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

Student/Staff Illness Continued	<p>to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and staff will be required to temperature check at the start of the day, prior to lunch, and at the end of the day• Students/Staff who indicate a fever (>99), after they have come to school, will be sent home immediately. Students waiting on parent pick-up will be isolated in a designated waiting area.• Students/Staff should be fever free for 24 hours with improving symptoms of any illness prior to returning to school.• Students/Staff who have a fever of 100.4 or higher AND at least two other COVID-19 Symptoms will be isolated in a designated waiting area and sent home.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Students/Staff with a positive COVID-19 test result or if COVID-19 cannot be ruled out with a negative test will be asked to stay home in quarantine until it is safe to be around others, which is after 24 hours with no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, AND 10 days since symptoms first appeared/positive test result.• In the event of a positive COVID-19 staff/student case, the Public Health Nurse, in coordination with the School District, determines staff/students who will need to quarantine at home for 14 days due to exposure.
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Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

School Operations- this not an all-inclusive list of all school/district operations

Student Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in grades K-5 will remain in their homeroom for all instruction, with the exception of PE. Teachers will come to the students.• PE for all students will be in the Gymnasium (or outside).• Students in Grades 6-8 will remain in their homeroom for all courses with the exception of elective classes.• Only one grade level at a time is allowed to be in the hallways at one time. Hallway expectations will be directly taught to ensure they stay in their "Social Bubble." Distancing markers will be on the floors to facilitate.• Floor markers will assist with helping students learn about their "Social Bubble."• K-2 students will be using the restrooms in the classrooms.• No more than two students at any one time will be allowed in any of the public restrooms.• Students on Tier III Intervention will receive services in the Learning Lab.• Students will only access hallway lockers for their coats, boots, outdoor clothing. All school materials will be in the classroom with the student.• The playground will not be available to students before or after school.
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Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

Student arrival and departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students arriving by bus enter through the East Door (as usual) and will immediately go to their classroom.• Students arriving by drop off will enter only through the Main Entrance, must be wearing a mask or face shield to enter the building, and immediately go to their classroom• Dismissal will be by groups, bus, car riders, walkers/bikers, extracurricular/Later Gators/Learning Lab• Students' temperatures will be taken prior to dismissal• Students will sanitize their hands prior to leaving the building• We will endeavor to minimize school materials sent home
Classroom Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mask or Face Shields must be worn when 6 ft distancing is not possible.• Teachers must have a static seating chart.• All teachers will use Google Classroom.• Class may be held outside.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Learning spaces and portable desks are available for outdoor learning.◦ Masks or face shields must still be worn, unless there is six feet between people.◦ Students and staff must wash hands with soap and water prior to returning to the classroom.• We encourage open windows to facilitate flow of fresh air.• Students have individual materials -- no sharing of supplies.• Clear Carrels are assigned to each student for the year to provide additional separation, but to also allow for group work and collaboration between students.



Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

Classroom Information Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are assigned a specific Chromebook for the year. ● PE lockers will only be used during 6-8 PE. K-5 students will only be allowed in the locker room to use the restroom and to wash hands.
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breakfast and K-2 snacks will be served in the classroom. There is no Second Chance Breakfast. ● Lunch will be served in the Cafeteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only one grade level at a time allowed in Cafeteria. ○ Students will have a static seating chart. ○ Students are seated 2 to a table following 6ft Social Distancing guidelines. ○ Anyone in the Cafeteria must wear a mask or face shield until they are seated for eating. ○ No Self-Serve table. ○ Cafeteria monitor will enter lunch codes. ● No after-school snack cart.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Games will be live-streamed, as spectators will not be allowed ● Protocols will follow MHSAs requirements and guidance
Visitors/Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents and visitors will not be allowed in the school, unless there is a face-to-face meeting for Special Education, 504, Parent/Teacher Conference or other meetings where social distancing can be practiced. ● Volunteers with a Background check may be allowed in the school for a specific purpose.



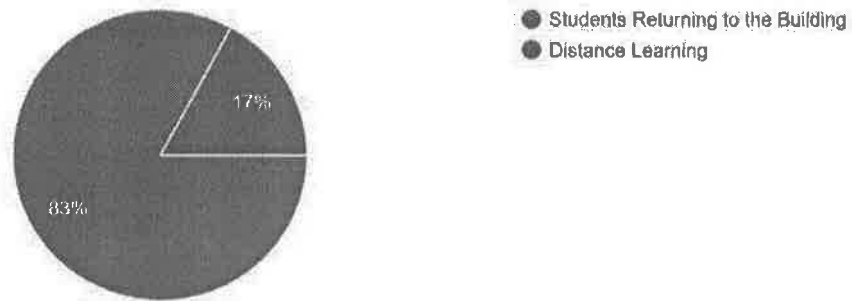
Gallatin Gateway School -- Return to School Detail 2020-2021

Facility Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilities will not be available for activities that are not specific to Gallatin Gateway School Activities.
Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seating chart will be static.• Social distancing will occur as much as possible.• Individuals must wear a mask or face shield when on the bus.
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library book check-out, check in and sanitizing will follow the American Library Association guidelines.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is an opportunity for a field trip, Teacher(s), Parents and Administration will collaborate to develop safety protocol that follows CDC, GCHD, and State requirements.

August Survey on the Reopening of School

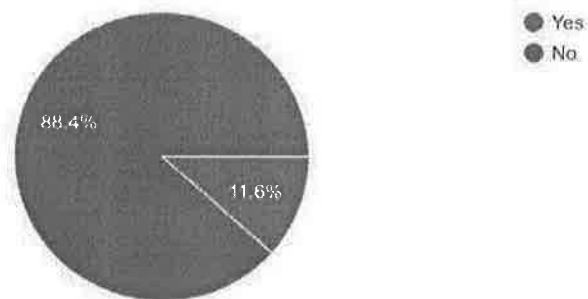
Based on the descriptors, which Model (traditional or distance), would you prefer for your children?

112 responses



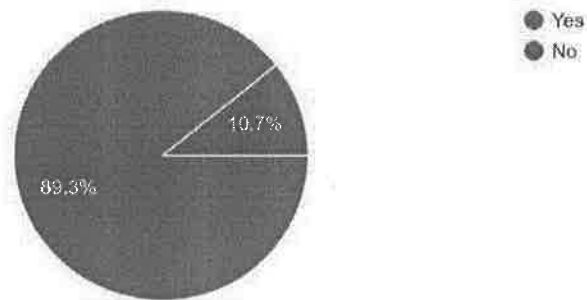
If we open school in the building, do you have a child or children that would need a homebound program due to a Medical Recommendation?

112 responses



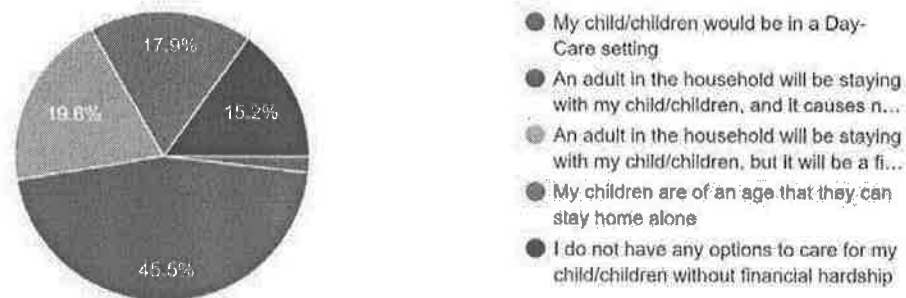
If we return to the Distance Learning Model, do you have streaming capabilities, so your student can attend virtual classes?

112 responses



If we return to Distance Learning, who will be home with your child/children?

112 responses



Keeping kids in smaller groups would be a good idea. Our family is worried about them not being able to use playground equipment and getting what they need from school other than academics. The extracurriculars are what help kids be able to focus on the academics. School needs to be a positive place and not living in fear with as much sanitation as possible

We are thrilled with the option to return to school.

Thank you for making sure the students are getting back to school with some sort of normalcy!

Are shields appropriate instead of masks?

I feel very nervous about sending my Kindergartner to school in a mask. He has trouble keeping it on when out in public places. I feel it would effect learning and would hinder most students and teachers from making the necessary connections that are so crucial at that age of development. I am very pleased with all other aspects of the plan for reopening the school!

I really like the block model for these kids. Masks all day every day for children seems unreasonable and like a major distraction to their teachers and peers disrupting their education. I can see kids playing with them, flinging them, chewing on them, etc and causing the teachers to stop teaching and deal with masks constantly! Either way, please move the board meeting up from 8/19. That doesn't give us parents much time to prepare!!!

I would prefer the school opens and operates in the Brick and Mortar fashion; if this is not a possibility I would support a Block Schedule Model, and the last resort would be Distance Learning. Since our son is just starting Kindergarden, I don't think a distance learning model would be good for establishing this important foundation. In-person learning is best. Thank you.

What will the end of the day look like? How will classes be dismissed per social distancing practices to avoid mass crowds.

You're doing a GREAT job Theresa! Thank you for leading our school!

I don't love the block schedule idea but would choose it over distance learning. I feel if the students will be given letter grades they need to have in person instruction. I hope the school will ask the parents for help anywhere they need extra assistance.

I really hope we can get our kids back in school with a normal schedule

I think face shields would be easier and in the end safer than masks due to comfort and less touching and readjusting. Face shields are accepted in health settings and consumer establishments, thereby making them sufficient for school. In addition we like the idea of block schedules but with an extra day for children that need additional help. For example Mon, Tuesday school for a group Wednesday a day for extra help as needed and Thursday, Friday school for another group. Kids will need extra help because masks will make it difficult for them to understand as well as communicate as easily as they are used to. I also think you need to eliminate unnecessary "soft" curriculum in order to focus on the main core. Eliminate music, art and gym for the year. Keep the classes tight and maybe have shorter days. There is going to be a month or more of a learning curve to get used to the masks at least. As of now we don't really wear masks because we refuse to go anywhere. We eat at home and order everything online and our fun is spent outside away from the public so we will have a huge learning curve. It is going to be a tough adjustment.

We appreciate all the work GGS is putting into getting the fall right! We want our kids back in school very badly, and they need to be. But, we are fearful of the virus and have a multigenerational home and 3 high risk adults in our house. How the virus has escalated since late June until now makes us nervous to send two kids to school. We are concerned about the air born nature of the virus and the amount of people/kids in the building whether 2 or 5 days a week. We are more in favor of an at home option or seeing how the virus progresses in the fall and winter and going into the school as soon as possible when the virus has died down. With the high risk adults in our house, we would love an at home option if the school opens because we want to be associated with GGS and follow the exact curriculum being taught and not our own home school option.

My concern is the social/emotional/mental impact the decision will have on my kids. My kids thrive on physical attendance within school, sports, extra-curricular activities and when they don't have that social/emotional aspect, their mental health takes a hit. These past 6 months have been rough on them. I know that GGS will do everything it can to make the school safe for our kids and I know that my kids need to be in the brick and mortar, not just for the educational side of things, but for the emotional/mental side of things.

I feel like the option to return to school is well thought out and a great plan is in place. However if distance learning is chosen, I will be forced to stay at home and not be able to work to provide for my family. I would have to look into other options for childcare in order for me to continue to work as I am unable to work from home. I think children need to be in the school building itself as most of them learn better from a teacher as opposed to mom/ dad. The social interaction plays an important role in growing and distance learning does not help that. If distance learning is the option, please think of ways for essential workers children to be taken care of. Please consider all these points as you make a decision.

Please, please, please go back to school, our children need it, we need it. I trust that you will work very hard to keep our children and the staff safe. One suggestion that I have is that you ask families to limit travel outside of the state and even not host out of state visitors. Also, to not attend large events that may expose their family and thus other school families to the virus. I know you probably can't require it, but I feel as though it is our community's responsibility to look out for each other and minimize the overall risks to the students and staff. It is our hope that you are able to keep the school experience as "normal" as possible, even if they have to wear masks!

I'm hoping that the parent meeting can address the details of student pickup/drop off, parents entering building, the sick policy, what the daily routines will look like, and how distancing will be practiced

Can students have personal classroom supplies to use rather than buying supplies for the whole class? I have a personal packet for my child but saw there is still a classroom supply list posted for the school year

I feel for the sanity of our Teachers, you should either offer in school learning or distance learning. Not a combo like Bozeman, theirs is ridiculous!!

XXXXs mom here :). From an emotional/psychosocial stand point, I would like D to be in person. Dr Zach has said "I would prefer online" when asked mid July. We see Dr Mitchell, our PCP, Aug 18 and will seek her counsel then. I may also loop in Izerda if needed as well as she is part of our family team for Aggies fetal stroke. I, though, would also appreciate hearing about Christine FNP and your comfort. Kris, tutor, continues to work with D 3x/wk, and they are making great progress together. However, I do feel like the online learning from last year was not really conducive to meeting Ds educational needs. I would also love to hear protocol for the school and classroom regarding suspected or confirmed cases as they arise.

I don't feel it's reasonable to require k-3 at the least to wear a mask. The younger children will touch their faces so much more by fiddling with the mask and cause a higher risk of germ contamination than if they don't have something on their faces!!! The children are all looking so forward to returning to school and being with their friends and teachers. The distance learning wasn't as effective as an in class curriculum. Our kids did the work but I didn't feel they were getting the knowledge out of the lessons that they needed. Teachers explain things and go more into detail with each lesson where as at home the children

just "did the lesson" i hope I'm conveying what I'm trying to say correctly. Thank you for your time... I hope we can get back to some form of normal soon. Please consider a full time back to school as the new normal for the kids!!

Well, my daughter would like the block schedule but I don't care either way, just happy if she is in school. If there is distance learning I do hope there will be more project based learning or maybe options not just online, IXL. Also break it down so as not to overwhelm, daily schedule as an option for those who don't do well with weekly.

I would like to return to school but without being required to wear masks.

I don't want to wear a mask but I would like to go back to school

I'm hoping that the parent meeting can address the details of student pickup/drop off, parents entering building, the sick policy, what the daily routines will look like, and how distancing will be practiced

Although distance-learning came together as well as could be done last spring, it is not a substitute for in-class, in-person learning. I know it won't be exactly a normal year, but I would love to see school be as normal as possible. I think this is the best route for our kids and community when we consider health more broadly to include mental health, safety and overall well-being. It seems like GGS has sufficient measures in place to have a school in the classroom during this pandemic. Thank you GGS for going above and beyond during this unprecedented time!

If we they end being out of school or block schedule what will be done to help parents with day care or lessen the strain on those who would fall on hardship with having to pay \$80 a day for most daycares. In Bozeman, MT

How do you plan to deal with children that have hearing disabilities? 1 in 6 kids have hearing disabilities and need to see the mouths of teachers and students to communicate effectively. Masks will also make children extremely sick with bacteria formations in their lungs. This is far more dangerous than the virus. Masks have no place in a school setting. Masks prevent nothing from spreading and cause more harm than good to children. Do the research!

I would like my kids to return to school full time. However what will the protocol be when someone at the school tests positive for Covid-19? Will there be a quarantine? How long and who?

We would prefer to be in the building, but with the stated plan that would not be our choice. Therefore we're not sure how to answer #1. We put distance learning because with more than 10-15 kids in a classroom we will not be attending in the building because they will not be able to properly social distance between students (6' is recommended with masks by physicians). With a block schedule model and only half the kids in a classroom (thus under 10-15 per classroom), we would attend school in the building.

A decision needs to be made before the 19th to give families the opportunity to prepare for the start of school.

Social distancing would not be achieved if every child were to attend. We would prefer a block schedule model and would then be able to choose to send our children safely.

It would be great if this decision could be before the 19th.

I would like to suggest clear face shields be provided for all kids (and teachers) so their faces can be seen. Then everyone is the same and there isn't a issue about masks being appropriate or not worn correctly.

My child will not do good on virtual learning, it would be best that the children are together in a school setting. So important for the children to interact in a social environment. The parents have to work!

Are there any plans, policies, etc being discussed for the case in which one of the children in my child's class tests positive or is exposed to someone testing positive? What is going to be the policy when cold season hits and most of our kiddos are a little stuffy, snotty, slight cough, etc...what will be the medical criteria, besides a fever, in which the children will be expected to stay out of school?

Thank You for the hard work and great communication as we all navigate the COVID 19 world. Lots of tough circumstances and decisions to make. Despite it all, we are very much looking forward to Sawyer starting Kindergarten in Gateway.

I honestly do not know how I can continue distance learning for my kids. It has not been beneficial to my kids bringing them to work with me. I cannot maintain any consistent schedule and have to help customers and complete tasks in the middle of her learning.

My hope is that school can be a welcome environment. And that as we see how resilient the children are in both health and adaptation, things can move into a better phase with no masks.

Am I reading and understanding correctly that K-5 would NOT have to wear masks while in the classroom (just if they are in the building in hallways, bathrooms, bus etc)?
Is Kindergarten still offered at 5 days a week?

Going back to school is important for my children's academics as well as social interaction. We appreciate any efforts to make our kids world as normal as possible.

I would like my kids to return to school full time. However what will the protocol be when someone at the school tests positive for Covid-19? Will there be a quarantine? How long and who?

Although distance-learning came together as well as could be done last spring, it is not a substitute for in-class, in-person learning. I know it won't be exactly a normal year, but I would love to see school be as normal as possible. I think this is the best route for our kids and community when we consider health more broadly to include mental health, safety and overall well-being. It seems like GGS has sufficient measures in place to have a school in the classroom during this pandemic. Thank you GGS for going above and beyond during this unprecedented time!

Social distancing would not be achieved if every child were to attend. We would prefer a block schedule model and would then be able to choose to send our children safely.

It would be great if this decision could be before the 19th.

I would prefer a cohort model, similar to one of the choices offered through the BSD, where kids are in school 4 days a week, with Fridays being remote, while teachers prep for the following weeks lessons.

I don't prefer a block schedule model, but if it's the only option I will put up with it. I prefer getting the kids back to school and I think the school has thought out the way that model will look. I want to see my kids back with their teachers and I want them to get real grades and have regular assignments. I don't like the mask wearing all day for kids, but if it lets them get back to school, that's great. I really DO NOT want to go back to distance learning. If that is the plan, then I am considering home school. I can teach my kids better at home than doing the distance learning.

Prefer the kids are back in school full time. Would prefer block model over distance only model. If we do a distance only model, or a block model, would likely attempt to utilize some day camps on some of the virtual learning days. That would be a financial impact and require some household re-budgeting, but wouldn't consider it a hardship. A strict online schedule will be difficult to manage. I work from home so am here if we are in a virtual environment, but last year found it really challenging to get my work done during the day and provide adequate support to my child to make online learning successful. My child was pretty anti-school by the time it was over last year, although he still loved his teacher! This was concerning as he is a child who really likes school. However, we will be supportive of the school, teachers, staff, and board however this shakes out and will stay enrolled. Thank you for your efforts.

Send them back to school. Belgrade is, along with Manhattan, and many other schools. Bozeman should not be the model for how to school our children. Not going back to school is a very poor option.

I feel that children need a consistent schedule, so either distance learning or full time school seem to be the best options (as apposed to the blended/block schedule model). A brick and mortar option at this point concerns me, given the current rate of infection in Gallatin County. Due to this, I feel there will inevitably be an outbreak the first couple weeks of school and we will all be in a quarantine/distance learning situation right away regardless. Also, with my particular child, there is no way they would tolerate a COVID test. Therefore, my preference would be to settle into a distance learning program from the first day of school for the fall semester and in November reevaluate brick and mortar learning for the spring semester.

"Red tape is an idiom referring to regulations or conformity to formal rules or standards which are claimed to be excessive, rigid or redundant, or to bureaucracy claimed to hinder or prevent action or decision-making. It is usually applied to governments, corporations, and other large organizations." Do not put politics ahead of children's education! Be willing to make data driven policy and adapt as needed.

We really don't want any of our kids wearing masks. One of our children has asthma. We plan to get a medical exemption for him so he wouldn't have to wear a mask due to the additional health risk. Would that be accepted by the school? Since there are several children with asthma in the school, how would that be handled? Have you considered face shields instead of face masks? We feel that it will be extremely difficult and harmful to have kids wear a mask for seven hours a day, five days a week. Additionally, kids and staff won't be able to see faces and read expressions.

What would happen if a child or staff member tested positive for COVID? Would the entire class have to be quarantined at home for two weeks? Would the school shut down completely? What would happen for families that wouldn't be able to stay home with quarantined kids for two weeks? How do you plan to handle the Open House?

While we all made distance learning work last spring, we (students and parents) want the kids to go back to school in-person. Kids need the social interaction and they miss their friends and teachers. The kids missed out on so much last spring - sports, field trips, special events, getting the most out of their electives, etc. We don't want to go back to distance learning. We feel that the risk is much lower than what's being publicized.

If we do go back to distance learning, how would grading work? We feel that a full-time distance learning model would be harmful to a lot of local families because most parents wouldn't be able to stay home with their kids again like they did in the spring. I might be able to stay home a couple days a week, but certainly not all five days so it would definitely create a hardship for our family. We urge you to let the kids return to school in-person and get back to a normal routine as quickly as possible. Thanks for all of your hard work!

1. In the beginning of this survey it says you will be following the guidelines of social distancing. I question how you were going to social distance a classroom of 20 kids staying 6 feet apart? I am not against returning to the brick and mortar building however I don't feel comfortable cramming a bunch of kids in one classroom just because they're wearing masks.

2. It would be nice at the beginning of the year if the kids could have classes outside. I had heard that you were looking for pop up tents for an art class. At this point I feel the core classes are the most important and if school can be outside I hope that core classes would be a priority.

3. Just a thought... Could K-go in the morning and 6-8 in the afternoon? You could space them out more that way. I'm sure cleaning in between could be an issue. If kids and teachers are wiping used surfaces that could be a way to get around it.

If the school decides to do entirely online, it will likely be at a detriment to my child as I have returned to work and he would be at home the majority of the time alone without my guidance. Although he is of an age to be left for a larger portion of the day, he is not organized/disciplined enough to remain on task for that time. I appreciate all the work the schools are doing through this very difficult and challenging time.

While I support the blended model due to current circumstances, I don't see it being worthwhile for my kindergartener since I have the ability to homeschool her and socialize her in ways that do not have to be as rigid. There is no easy answer and I realize with the governor's mask mandate you will have to abide by that as well. This is so hard and you have my support in this whether my child attends or not.

It is my opinion that our school does not have adequate space to properly distance during this time. I have concerns going back full force with so many restrictions in place with risk of set backs or

re-closures. I realize there is no right answer; we won't please everyone; the best we can do is try to get back to some type of normalcy and routine for our children and ourselves. It is my hopes we can do that wisely, setting up for success in moving forward rather than backwards. I feel that a "block schedule" would be a good way to start the school year with a focus on Core classes. Especially as there is likely a lot of catching up to do;) In school instruction is very important, as is the health and safety of everyone. I would like to think that with less students in the school, proper distancing and hygiene practices would be easier to maintain and be effective. Whatever we choose to do won't be perfect; we'll just need to make adjustments as we go!

As a side note; I do not foresee my kindergartner being able to wear a mask all day.

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What will the end of the day look like? How will classes be dismissed per social distancing practices to avoid mass crowds.

I feel the children need to be in school. If parents need to stay home to teach will there be some sort of financial assistance to help ease the burden. Other schools in different states paid for hot spots for the children to be able to stream-will that be an option to help those families with no internet at their homes?