

# **Belmont Public Schools**

## **“Return-to-Learning” Fall 2020**

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 11, 2020**

# AGENDA

1. Update on feedback from Community
  - Survey review
  - Emails received since Thursday, 8/6
2. Vote on “return to learning” plan by School Committee

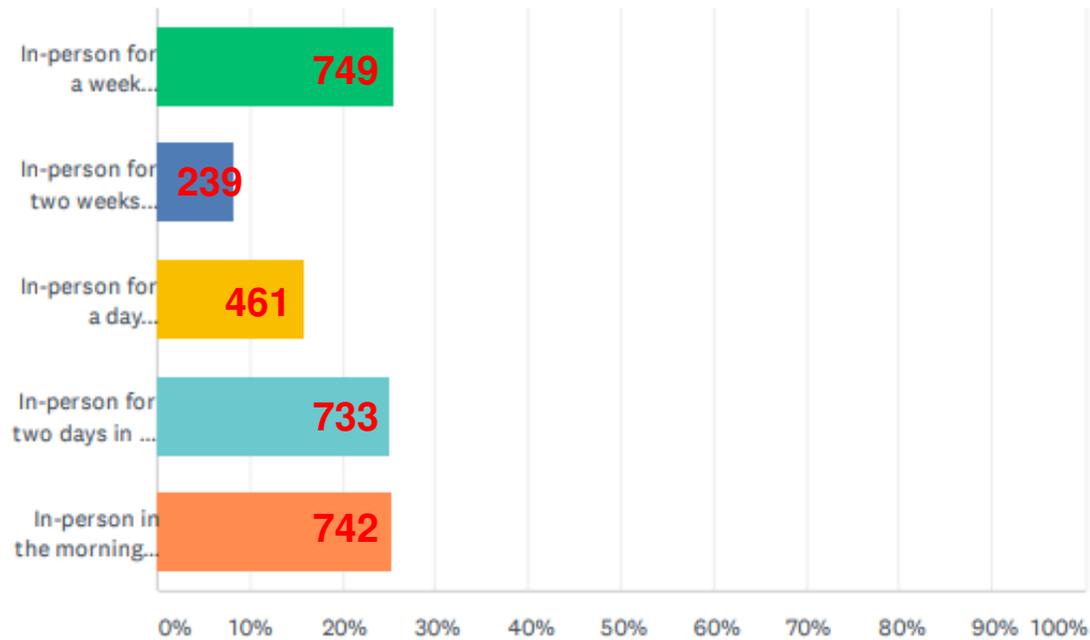
# SURVEY REVIEW (1 OF 7)

#1: My student attends...

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Belmont High School	27.90%	882
Chenery Middle School	30.97%	979
Burbank Elementary School	9.21%	291
Butler Elementary School	7.94%	251
Wellington Elementary School, including PreK	12.27%	388
Winn Brook Elementary School	11.71%	370
TOTAL		3,161

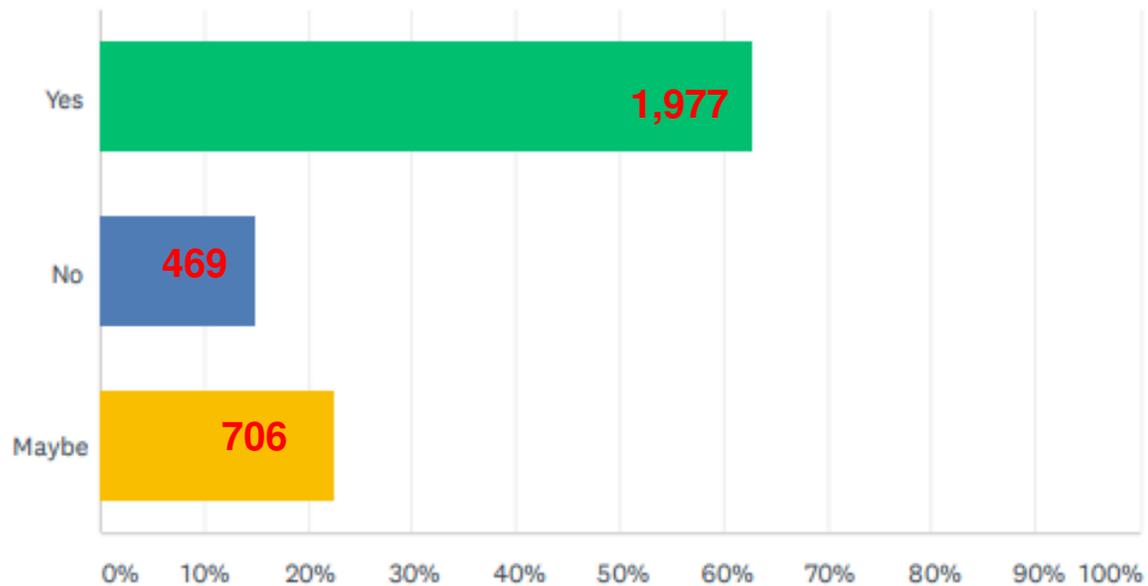
# SURVEY REVIEW (2 OF 7)

#2 Which of these hybrid versions works best for your student and family?



# SURVEY REVIEW (3 OF 7)

#3 If we are able to open school with a hybrid model, would your student attend?



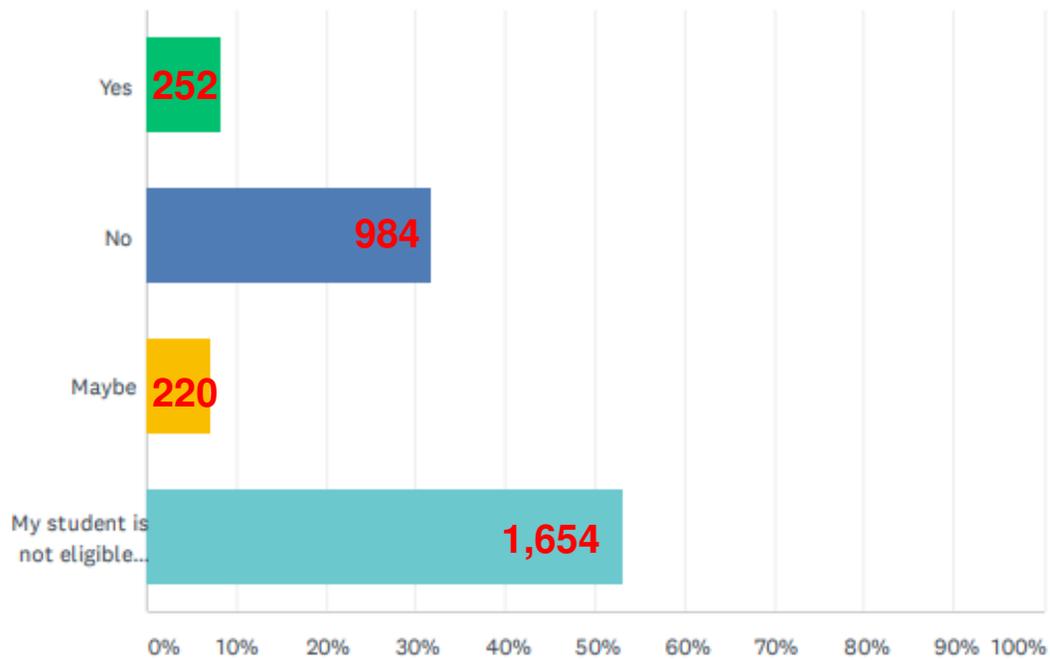
# SURVEY REVIEW (4 OF 7)

#4 If no or maybe, reasons for this...

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My student is medically compromised.	6.37%	77
Someone in the household is medically compromised.	24.90%	301
I am nervous about sending my student to school.	72.46%	876
Other (please specify)	29.53%	357
Total Respondents: 1,209		

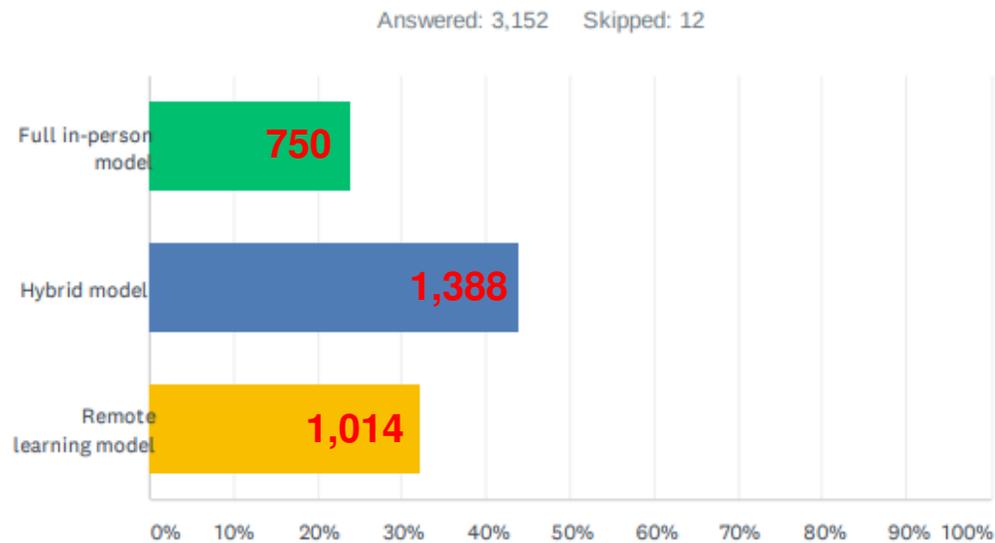
# SURVEY REVIEW (5 OF 7)

#5 If eligible, will your student ride the bus?



# SURVEY REVIEW (6 OF 7)

#6 Given the totality of the circumstances, which model do you prefer for this student?



# SURVEY REVIEW (7 OF 7)

#7 Data desegregated by school comparing opinions across school levels

Parent Survey Data August 10, 2020		Given the totality of the circumstances, which option do you prefer for this student?			
Schools	My student attends:	If we are able to open school with a hybrid model, my student will attend.	Full in- person model	Hybrid model	Remote learning model
<b>All School Average</b>		<b>61.95%</b>	<b>30.68%</b>	<b>38.51%</b>	<b>30.81%</b>
Belmont High School	27.90%	64.99%	19.89%	50.17%	29.94%
Chenery Middle School	30.97%	61.13%	22.78%	43.31%	33.91%
<b>Elementary Schools</b>		<b>61.39%</b>	<b>35.36%</b>	<b>34.40%</b>	<b>30.25%</b>
Burbank Elementary School	9.21%	60.48%	60.48%	17.53%	21.99%
Butler Elementary School	7.94%	51.60%	21.12%	40.64%	38.25%
Wellington Elementary School, including PreK	12.27%	67.53%	30.91%	40.78%	28.31%
Winn Brook Elementary School	11.71%	65.95%	28.92%	38.65%	32.43%

# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- ✓ Since last Thursday's 8/6 meeting, we have received 78 emails from 70 members of the community
- ✓ They have all been read by several administrators and organized into categories.

Those categories are:

- Support for the 4-phase "return to learning" plan (38 total)
- Support for a modified version of the phased plan by combining phases 1 & 2 (6 total)
- Opposition to the phased plan and/or support for the hybrid "return to learning" plan (27 total)
- Questions or comments only (4 total)

# SAMPLING OF QUESTIONS

- Could please share the survey data? Will the results of the parent survey will be made public? If the majority of parents want kids in schools, are you going to listen?
- Has the building air quality audit process been started and will the community be apprised of progress?
- Phase 1 states that all will be remote learning except for the high needs and complex profile students based on the guidelines. How will those students be decided? What is the process for communication with families? How will that work with staff who may not want to return?
- If the school department was given some additional funding, what is the highest priority need that you would spend it on? I heard members of the school committee say that coronavirus testing would be a “game-changer.” ...Is it fair to say that you would implement a rigorous testing plan if you could afford it, or is there a higher priority need?

## SAMPLING OF QUESTIONS (2)

- Are there plans to apply for state and federal funding for capital improvements as they relate to COVID-19 and will Belmont forfeit access to those funds by starting remotely?
- The surrounding towns are finding a way to make this work and I don't understand why we can't. What differentiates us from Lexington and Arlington? The hybrid presentation on August 4<sup>th</sup> mentioned that Lexington, Winchester, and Weston were all considering the same proposed format – what are the issues that preclude Belmont from moving forward but not those towns?
- With a remote opening, would BPS consider implementing and investing capital into fresh-air heat exchangers and/or UV lights on heat vents to reduce sharing air between school rooms and the amount of live virus in the air, respectively?
- If we chose to pursue in-person instruction, would we be able to synchronize our children's schedules so that they could go into schools on the same days?

## SAMPLING OF QUESTIONS (3)

- What is roughly the hour breakdown of synchronous and asynchronous instruction in the proposed hybrid schedule? Are there 8 hours of teacher meetings/prep time per week? How will it be different from last spring?
- In a hybrid model, who, specifically, is going to teach the kids who are learning via remote instruction?
- What specific data is the Superintendent using to recommend a phased in approach? How will you define a clear criteria for return? What additional guidance and clarity on metrics is the administration waiting for beyond the 5% threshold recommended by the CDC? Please clearly communicate the requirements, including anticipated timelines and rates of infection, that will allow a transition to the next phase.

# METRICS TASK FORCE

- We are forming a “Metrics Task Force” to look at the most reliable metrics for opening up in our phased approach. The task force should have representatives from the school Department, the Health department, and local experts (doctors, environmental specialists, epidemiologists, etc.)
- Their task will be to create a rubric or dashboard that includes all the key considerations for any return decisions, such as:
  - Medical / Public Health (Risk to students, risk to students' families, risk to school faculty & staff, current community prevalence, etc.)
  - SEL (student wellbeing measures)
  - Academic (Progress vs. grade level expectations, younger students vs. older students, students with special needs, readiness of online methods and curricula)
  - Logistics (School schedules, transportation, facilities safety)

# REMINDER OF SCHOOL PRIORITIES

1. Health and Safety
2. Social Emotional Well-Being
3. Academic Engagement and Return to Learning

# RECOMMENDATION: 4-PHASE PLAN

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
<b>K-12 Remote Learning</b>	<b>Continued Remote Learning</b> (for majority of students)	<b>Full Hybrid Learning</b> (for all students)	<b>Full In-Person Learning</b>
In-person for our “high needs and complex profile” students, per DESE guidelines	In-person learning for next level of vulnerable students, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade K and/or Grade 1</li> <li>• Economically disadvantaged / SEL / academic students in need</li> </ul>	In-person and remote learning via hybrid schedule  This option would include full remote learning for those students who are unable to attend in person	Full student return with some restrictions within DESE guidelines

All in-person transitions will be based upon a successful assessment of conditions for health and safety.

# VOTE

- Options:
  - Full-return
  - Hybrid return
  - 4-Phase return
  - Full-remote

## WHAT IS NEXT?

1. The School Committee will vote tonight for one option to be submitted to DESE tomorrow.
2. Once the model is voted, we will put our full attention, expertise, effort, and creativity to the chosen plan.