

I am Rebecca Allison. I joined our board in December of 2019. My main reason for running for school director was to help facilitate better communication throughout the district. In my short time on this board, I believe we have made great strides!

Tonight, we have a very hot-button issue to discuss and vote upon. For many, it is very emotional, for some, very political. My hope is that we, as a community, can listen to the plans being offered and understand that no matter where your personal opinions about Covid-19 lie, from : “This is a Hoax” to “The sky is falling!”, our administration is responsible for the education and safety of ALL the children in our district. We are also responsible for the safety of ALL our district staff. As a school board, we must address and respect the needs and concerns of ALL - and no one family or group is going to receive everything they desire in a plan.

I am asking all of us to consider the absolute reality that “school” is going to look a whole lot different when we return. There are guidelines we MUST follow - whether we agree with them or not. Our students are going to need our patience and encouragement. They are going to need positive attitudes. When kids hear their parents complain and criticize our district, it will only make the return to the classroom that more difficult. As an example: If we constantly complain about masks: “masks are useless”, “masks do more harm than good”, “no one can tell ME to wear a mask” -- Where does that leave our children when they return to school and are asked to wear a mask in specific situations? Our kids will be faced with “My parents are saying one thing but I go to school and my teacher, whom I respect, is asking me to do the opposite”. How do we reconcile that? We must understand that to succeed as a district, we MUST compromise! We must adhere to the guidelines and make the best of a challenging situation. --

PLEASE NOTE: None of the plans require your child to wear a mask or face shield ALL DAY. In specific situations, yes.
All day - NO.

In the best of circumstances, there are no perfect options. There will be many questions, and many opportunities for criticism. It is my hope that we can all appeal to our rational natures and see these plans for what they are. Options for each and every family to make their OWN PERSONAL CHOICE. It's ok to admit it's very difficult. It IS difficult. And if your neighbor or best friend makes a different choice than you, IT'S OK!! It is THEIR CHOICE!

The plan is being presented tonight. Please understand it is a "working plan". Directives from the Department of Education are constantly changing. Tomorrow, the plan will be made available on the district website. Please, get online and look over each option. A link to submit questions will be available. Please, use these links to ask your questions so everyone can see the questions and the answers provided. Communication is key. Compromise and patience are necessary. Clarion-Limestone has a wonderful reputation for being the best education in our county. If we want this to continue, we must adapt and overcome the challenges of this pandemic. We CAN succeed. We need to trust that our district, who has continued to thrive throughout the years, will continue to make the necessary adjustments and changes and will continue to provide a high quality education for ALL.