



The Laureate Park Elementary PTA is committed to the success of our students and teachers. The following information is compiled from the OCPS School Board Work Session on July 7, 2020.

Current Educational Options Under Consideration for OCPS students:

1.) Face-to-Face In-School Instruction

The School Board is continually gathering information and planning options for 2020-2021 school year. Nothing is set in stone. The Board will meet on July 14th to vote on a definite plan and measures for the 2020-2021 school year.

2.) OCPS Virtual School

This option has already been established and is more robust than what was provided at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. <https://ocvs.ocps.net/>

3.) LaunchEd@Home

This is an innovative option plan that the School Board will propose to the State. It will need State approval before implementation. Deadline for plan submission is July 31 and expected turnaround time for approval is 1 week.

LaunchEd@Home is a virtual option that will allow for more interaction between teacher and students participating from home. Teacher will teach live in front of a camera and will be able to see students through monitors. Students will be able to ask questions live and have more interaction with the teacher as opposed to watching videos and following other self-paced virtual options.

**The School Board will likely ask families to commit to whatever option they choose for at least one semester (2 marking periods) to help maintain continuity for students and teachers. However, if a student is truly struggling, they will address the needs of the child on a case by case basis to determine whether switching options earlier is necessary.*

Slides from School Board Work Session on July 7, 2020

[https://go.boarddocs.com/fla/orcpsfl/Board.nsf/files/BRAMGM56D952/\\$file/07.07.2020%20REOPENING%20OF%20SCHOOLS%20FINAL.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/fla/orcpsfl/Board.nsf/files/BRAMGM56D952/$file/07.07.2020%20REOPENING%20OF%20SCHOOLS%20FINAL.pdf)

The School Board discussed sending out a second survey to Parents and teachers to find their rated preferences for the available options as circumstances and needs have changed since the initial survey was distributed.

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING IS JULY 14th. They will vote on a definite plan for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year.



Quick Facts

- 1.) **School Board must follow Governor's executive order to open Schools in August and must offer the same 5 day Monday-Friday option to all students.** Schools are still required to provide 180 days of instruction or the hourly equivalent for each grade level. School Start Date is currently set for August 10, but according to the legal verbiage, the School Board could potentially push this date back as late as August 31.
- 2.) **Dr. Pino presented data showing decrease in Orange County COVID cases following Mayor mandate for masks.** Dr. Pino recommended masks for staff and students in schools and on buses. Per OCPS Associate General Counsel, Schools have the right to deny entry to students who refuse to wear masks as it is a current County mandate to wear masks in public places.

"Section 2. Face Coverings Required. a. Every person working, living, visiting, or doing business in Orange County is required to wear a Face Covering consistent with the current CDC guideline while in any public place." -Orange County, Florida Emergency Executive Order 2020-23

- 3.) **Protective equipment, modifications and technology for LaunchEd@Home will be costly.**

What Can Parents and Community Members Do To Help?

- 1.) If the school start date is pushed back, teachers and schools can use the extra time to provide more in depth training and will have more time for careful implementation of health and safety measures. Currently, teachers will lose pay for August if start date is pushed back to the end of the month. The budget does not allow for teachers to be paid prior to start of teaching days. However, CARES ACT funds are available. **We can help by requesting that the board use CARES ACT funds to pay teachers during training if they return to work prior to the start of school instruction.**
- 2.) **We can ask the School Board to tap into Carry Forward Funds to help cover the required costs to provide sufficient health and safety measures.** The Carry Forward Funds the amount that the School District keeps reserved to carry forward into the following year.



- 3.) **We can ask the School Board to tap into Categorical funds.** Safely educating current students during this pandemic should outweigh the need for new construction of school buildings and funds should be allocated for the prioritized needs of the community.

OCPS SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESSES:

District 5 School Board Rep is Johanna Lopez, but you can email them all.

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- 4.) **We can contact Senate Rubio and Senator Scott to support the Heroes Act to provide more Federal dollars to help communities and school districts cover the extra costs of sanitation and resources for health and safety.**

Senator Rubio: <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

Senator Scott: https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick

- 5.) **We can ask the State to remove the completion funding requirement for virtual learning.** Currently, School Districts only receive funding for students in virtual programs when the program is completed. An alternative to the completion requirement could be incremental benchmarks or time periods throughout the school year for which the School District receives funding for the students in the virtual learning programs.

Governor Ron DeSantis - GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

- 6.) **The School Board is asking able families to transport their own children or carpool to minimize number of riders on school buses.**

- 7.) **Parents can also help their student maintain social distancing at bus stops.** School District has no responsibility for students at bus stops. However they mentioned looking into having Police and Community Officers doing drive-by options to check on bus stops.

Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings - mayor@ocfl.net

For more information about Laureate Park Elementary PTA, please visit our website at www.laureateparkpta.com