

Littleton Preparatory Charter School  
5301 South Bannock St.  
Littleton, CO 80120

## **GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**February 18, 2021  
5:00 p.m.**

**Virtual call**

**Minutes**

**Call to order:** 5:02 pm

**Attendance:** K. Ash, L. Lira, D. Banegas, C. Hillary, J. McCrumb, C. Sanders, J. Davis

### **Public Comments**

Kirsten Coquat - Has been part of LPCS community for 14 years. Served in many rolls, including POPS. Expressed thanks to governing board, staff, administration for work during these challenging times. LPCS has stayed true to core values. Appreciates work and support.

Joy George - Appreciative of LPCS and administration for hard work of teachers and administration. Advocating for mental health of own children - need and desire to be in person. Understands calculated risk of returning to school. Advocating for own children to be back to in person learning.

Kristen Kemp - Family is grateful to be part of LPCS. Expressed thanks to administration and governing board. In favor of returning to all day school. Did not sign petition because of factual inaccuracies and omissions of key facts. Did not appreciate divisive tone of petition. LPCS is community of choice. Greatly appreciates LPCS. Respects roll and decision of LPCS governing board and administration.

Karen Kallenberg - Parent of 3rd and 6th grader. Expressed appreciation of LPCS staff. Strong supporter of hybrid model. In hybrid model, witnessed teachers going above and beyond to support students. LPCS has done well with mitigation strategies to keep kids healthy. For health reasons, prefers hybrid model for social distancing. Hybrid model allows time for staff to get vaccinated. When 3rd grade returned all in person, made decision to keep daughter in remote model which allows for high quality education from Mrs. Demis, Mrs. Bush, and Mrs. Hammers. Appreciates efforts school leaders have made. Please continue to offer remote learning option.

Marc Ross - Expressed thanks to educators. In August, family was resistant to hybrid program, but has been pleasantly surprised at level of education in fourth grade in hybrid

model. On recent parent survey, disappointed that hybrid not an option. Concerned about social distancing at LPCS. Son spends time in portable trailer classroom and increasing number of students in person poses safety risk to students and teachers. Recommends to continue with shortened school day; preferably reconsideration of hybrid model. Following spring break, concerned about outbreaks.

Lisa Harris - At LPCS for several years. Appreciates LPCS. First graders just learning to read. Even though shortened school day, teachers have given extra attention to students. Prefers full time, but supports school. Appreciates Mrs. Ash and staff.

Stephanie Carter - New to LPCS last year. Loves LPCS and supportive of difficult decisions. Full support to try and get back to full time this year. Son has not done well with remote learning. Remote learning is inferior and not the same as in person. Advocates to return in person, full time. Disagrees that LPCS population is different from surrounding schools. Surrounding districts have had success in returning in person all year. Petition was created to get attention of LPCS community. Handed out flyers in carpool line - did not utilize parent handbook. Dissatisfied with choices offered last fall. Would like to move forward with getting children back to school full time this year.

Scott Wilkey - Has been at LPCS for 13 years. Sees other students in neighborhood going in person to school full time and expressed concern. Mental, physical, and emotional health of children critical and needs to be considered. Son benefits from being in classroom environment. News sources state students should return to in person school. Wants to get kids back in school.

Community Emails: attached to February minutes.

### Old Business

COVID planning update / return to school planning (K. Ash, D. Banegas)

K. Ash - Shared personal history with LPCS. Stated core values have been upheld in all work in the past as well as throughout this year. Stated choice is foundational to charter schools and asked community to hold on to “why” as we continue to navigate challenges for rest of year. Explained that administrative team has listened and utilized feedback from community while collaborating with district and public health officials. K. Ash, L. Lira, and D. Banegas shared 5 options for return to school planning for 4th quarter. Options shared publicly via slideshow presentation. Administrative team recommended moving forward with option 3 with start date of 3/29/2021.

J. Davis - For option 3, is it possible for specials teachers to facilitate afternoon activities to allow paraprofessionals to support teachers each morning?

K. Ask, D. Banegas - Paraprofessionals work 4 hours each day. Hours would be adjusted to facilitate afternoon activities. Not enough specials teachers to lead

specials in afternoons. Would need support from paraprofessionals. Specials teachers currently working hard to offer activities to remote students.

J. Davis - How many Paraprofessionals would need to be hired to execute option 3?

D. Banegas - Depends on how many families elect to participate in afternoon activities. At most, would need to hire 6 paraprofessionals. Advocating for 3/29 start date for option 3 to allow time to hire.

C. Sanders - With option 3, would there be option for families to alternate pick up times (12:30pm or 2:45pm) throughout week?

K. Ash - Would ask families to commit to one consistent pick up time.

J. McCrumb - What is cost for option 4 or 5? Would LPCS need to dip into reserves?

K. Ash - No cost analysis at this time for option 4 or 5 - would be large expense. Option 4 would require hiring program developer and teachers. Option 5 not viable option, out of consideration for remote learners.

J. McCrumb - Being objective, is it worth long term cost to offer option 4?

K. Ash - No reward for remote students for option 4. Not worth long term cost when comparing option 3 to option 4.

J. McCrumb - Would it be worth the time to survey families regarding option 3?

K. Ash, D. Banegas - Important to offer afternoon activities offered in option 3 at this point. Difficult to predict decisions families will make. Anticipate large number of families choosing option 3 which includes lunch, recess, and small group activity based on previous feedback from families. Ready to execute on requesting family feedback following decision from governing board.

J. McCrumb - Looking at options 2 and 3, what are we asking of teachers and support staff?

D. Banegas - Support staff will make changes including schedule changes and shifting responsibilities to afternoon supervision. Will impact specials team because they will transfer curriculum to paraprofessionals. Teachers will have change in use of classroom space.

C. Hillary - Reasons to consider returning earlier than 3/29, other than to meet request of some parents?

K. Ash - Starting 3/29 allows time for more teachers to get vaccinated and prepare for changes.

C. Hillary - Is majority of staff going to be able to receive vaccine, either first dose and/or second dose, before spring break?

K. Ash - Yes. Goal to ensure every teacher in building who wishes to have vaccine, will have access. Working through challenges related to arranging vaccine invites to staff.

C. Hillary - Have all internal rooms been fitted for air filtration?

L. Lira - Yes, HVAC filters have been changed two or three times as often as compared to in past. Every classroom in building has received air purifier system.

J. McCrumb - Does contact tracing exist in option 3?

K. Ash - Targeted contact tracing not possible in option 3 under current guidelines. Since 1/5/21, 68 quarantines in LPS. Social distancing not possible so standard contact tracing would be needed. Two weeks after full vaccination, teachers will not need to quarantine if exposed. Can transition in and out of remote learning if needed, although not desired. Ability grouping will remain with option 3, not with options 4 or 5.

**MOTION** (C. Hillary) to accept administration recommendation to modify schedule to option three as described in the documents provided by Mrs. Ash, starting 3/29/2021. **SECOND** (J. McCrumb). **APPROVED** (Unanimous Vote 4-0).

K. Ash - Will send communication to LPCS community Friday, 2/18/2021, outlining option 3 and asking for a response from families.

### New Business

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum - (D. Banegas, K. Ash) - proposal provided in prepared Board documents.

Staff has reviewed 4 different curriculums, including Discovery Education (current curriculum) and recommending Amplify Science. Aligns with NGSS and Common Core state standards - LPCS working to align work with standards. Will vote in March meeting. Current program is Discovery Education, which has outdated digital resources and is difficult to navigate. Curriculum comparison shared publicly via slideshow presentation. Costly, but includes all necessary resources and support. If approved, would discontinue use of Discovery Education. Materials budget for science would be reduced. Amplify curriculum in line with culturally relevant education, including equitable grading.

Wendy Miscall, Science Teacher - Fully in support of and enthusiastic about Amplify Science.

C. Hillary - Would like to see curriculum and program updates next school year, after delays and postponements of this year. Community and staff desire to get re-centered and launch new programs and changes.

K. Ash - LPCS staff desires to continue to improve and plans to do so.

Reports - provided in prepared Board documents.

Administration -  
K. Ash

J. Davis - Plans for 8th grade graduation?

D. Banegas - Creative plans in the works.

J. Davis - NJHS induction ceremony plans this spring?

K. Ash - Yes, induction for new members will occur in spring, possibly outside, weather dependent. Once new return-to-school plan communicated, will plan to communicate with families regarding 8th grade graduation and NJHS induction ceremony.

J. Davis - Regarding summer skills recovery program, do numbers in DOA report reference both younger and older students who received communication about upcoming summer program?

K. Ash - Report only included 4th-7th grades. Still working through options for younger students, which will include FastForward program. Details forthcoming for grades K-3.

CMAS - Current plans for CMAS testing this spring.

C. Hillary - Are there plans for townhall meeting before spring break?

K. Ash, D. Banegas, L. Lira - open to townhall, although concerned that townhall forum often used to discuss unique needs of individual families. More beneficial to have families communicate unique needs directly to administration. Discussion around having end-of-year townhall in May to discuss topics relevant to fall.

L. Lira

Budget - Still in budget planning session for next year. May need additional meeting prior to March meeting to present budget plans for next year.

**MOTION** (C. Hillary) to approve employment update as submitted by L. Lira on 2/18/2021  
**SECOND** (C. Sanders). **APPROVED** (Unanimous Vote 4-0).

**MOTION** (C. Hillary) to approve calendar for 2021-22 school year with noted change, submitted by L. Lira on 2/18/2021 **SECOND** (J. Davis). **APPROVED** (Unanimous Vote 4-0).

Board Members -

Accept resignation from former Governing Board member Todd Porter.  
Resignation letter attached to February minutes.

**MOTION** (J. McCrumb) to accept resignation of Todd Porter from Governing Board, effective 1/21/2021. **SECOND** (J. Davis). **APPROVED** (Unanimous Vote 4-0).

Approval of Minutes:

January 21, 2021  
December 15, 2020

**MOTION** (C. Hillary) to approve minutes from 1/21/2021 as submitted by J. Davis **SECOND** (J. McCrumb). **APPROVED** (Unanimous Vote 4-0).

**MOTION** (C. Hillary) to approve minutes from 12/15/2020 as submitted by J. Davis **SECOND** (J. McCrumb). **APPROVED** (Unanimous Vote 4-0).

Future Items

Vote on 5th-8th grade science curriculum

Future Meetings

March 18, 2021

**Adjournment: 7:37**

Jennifer Davis  
Secretary  
LPCS Governing Board

## **Public Comments Emails:**

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently read the petition that was created by LPCS parents. While I can understand their position of frustration with our children's educational experience, I want to express my displeasure with the petition and the idea of coming back full-time. First, and most important, our teachers are not vaccinated yet. While I'm sure they wish to return to normal in school, this can't currently be done without putting them at risk. Second, we would have to go against current CDC recommendations for safety in order to return to school. Distancing would be completely removed, not to mention the removal of masks during snack and lunch, creating a much larger potential for the virus to be passed around. Another major issue with returning would be the educational experience for those who have to quarantine. The TOPS program is not sufficient and does not provide the ability grouping for which we chose this school. It also doesn't take into consideration those who have chosen to be fully remote. We would be isolating these children in a way that could be harmful to their mental health. The current Hybrid Model allows for us to consider most of the needs of all children. It also allows for a smooth transition during a time of uncertainty.

I have heard a lot of discussion about how much our kids are losing out. How this situation is creating poor habits and making bad students. I couldn't disagree more. While this has been very difficult to maneuver, it has taught my children and I to be resilient and to think outside of the box to meet our needs. It has also taught me just how important my attitude about this situation is. My children are watching me. They hear the rhetoric I use regarding the virus and the sacrifices we have to make to protect people. They take their tone from me. So I think it is important, during a time when people's lives are being lost, that we remember to focus on what matters the most; human life. My children learned less math and reading this year than I would've liked. They also learned to be empathetic to someone they will never meet or know. They learned how to struggle and sacrifice. You can't put a value on that. Please do not take away our choice of hybrid with 90 days left in the school year.

Sincerely,

Melissa Weatherbee, LPCS Parent

To Whom It May Concern:

In light of a petition that is circulating around our school community, I wanted to express my support for our administrators' decision to keep the hybrid model. While shifting to 5 full days a week would make my life more convenient, there is a lot more to consider than just my personal comfort.

It is concerning that the writers of this petition are using their positions as medical professionals to justify providing misleading information. The new CDC guidelines for schools are in direct contrast to the information in the petition. Per the LPS website, in Arapahoe county, we currently have 272.2 cases per 100,000 which puts us in the red category according to CDC guidelines. In this category, elementary schools may consider limited reopening with physical distancing required and middle schools should be virtual unless mitigation strategies can be met.

Moving to a full day schedule would make physical distancing more challenging. Lunch poses huge obstacles and is nearly impossible to do safely. There is also the possibility that a new variant will become dominant by the end of March. Unfortunately, we are still not out of the woods when it comes to this virus and the precautions we must take.

Without the hybrid model, students who need to quarantine, would not have the option of logging into their classrooms remotely to keep up with their work. Having our students miss weeks of school without an online option is a huge concern. The TOPS program does nothing to address this issue. This program is also not a good alternative for the fully remote students as they would no longer be able to be in their ability groups or follow our school's specific curriculum.

Assuming that we should end our hybrid model because other schools have switched to full day schedules and have had "nothing bad happen" negates the knowledge we have regarding asymptomatic transmission. While these schools have maybe avoided shutdowns, it doesn't mean that their full day learning hasn't somehow contributed to the further spread of the virus within our community.

I won't pretend that doing the hybrid model has been easy for me or my kids; however, I also believe that my kids are learning to be adaptable, resilient and how to care about others through our choices. The hybrid model protects the health of our community while also providing the best academic experience possible. As a school community, it should be our shared mission to work together and not against each other as we are all trying our best to get through these challenges. Thank you for considering my thoughts regarding the hybrid model.

Sincerely,

Allie Wallace, Kindergarten & 4<sup>th</sup> grade parent

Dear Governing Board,

That while I do not doubt or question the commitment and love the administration has for our school and children, I do believe that we are sacrificing our in-person learners to maintain the LP remote synchronous program. Teachers attentions are completely divided trying to manage the kids online at the same time. I have heard story after story of kids in the classroom trying to get a teacher's attention to clarify something or contribute in class that gets ignored because the teacher is dealing with something on their computer.

I also think we are sacrificing the remote learner's education by continuing to do remote because it is well documented that remote learning is inferior. Teacher is completely divided and can't see everything going amiss online or a hand raised online, so those kids are getting over looked as well! The fact that the school is now in discussion and planning to create an education recovery summer school program is evidence that you know it's inferior and not working.

The teachers have begun getting vaccinated and the studies prove that everyone is actually less likely to get exposed to COVID-19 at school, taking precautions such as masking and hand washing. One is less likely to pick up COVID-19 in the classroom than out in the general population. Hybrid is an illusion of distancing safety because there is an entire cohort out in public that would be more protected following safe guidelines at school. Half day is the same, our kids are left with little or nothing to do all afternoon, picking up dangerous habits like internet surfing, gaming, overeating and other boredom related activities and feeling isolated and depressed while all their counterparts in the LPS, Englewood, CCSD and even DPS are at school, all afternoon, every day.



I keep hearing that our school's population and needs are different than others but I could not agree less, all populations need in person learning instruction and to be in school full time. Every other school around us has evolved and adapted, they tried things and they worked or didn't, so they pivoted and changed which is key in a year like this that has changed continuously. I am shaken by LPCS's lack of will to correct course and the feeling that you are just digging in your heels to somehow try to prove that you've been "right". But again, because I hear planning is in place for the summer school recovery program, I know, that you know, what we are doing isn't actually working.

We put together a grass roots petition to try to get the attention of the parents in our school's community. We stayed within ethical boundaries and didn't use our parent handbook to just email everybody in the school. We reached as many people as we could physically reach in the car pickup line and we handed out around 100 flyers and our petition has almost 90 signatures in support of getting back to full day, in person school.

It begs the question that we have discussed...if a survey went out to the whole school population, parents, teachers, staff that had more than the 2 choices like we were given last July (remote or hybrid half day), what would we see as a response? After many conversations with people in our school's community it has become a clear question that quite a few families likely chose remote because they were not going to be able to "manage" the logistics of 2 days on, 3 days off, 3 days on, 2 days off (half days) and still keep their jobs and manage their lives. I had to quit a job to make it work and I am fortunate that my husband has remained working full time so we could financially muddle through, but I question whether a single parent or a divided home family could manage something like this? They are dependent on their child or children being at school so they can work. So, did those people choose remote because they could not go pick up their children in the middle of the day every day or have their children at home more than half the time? I was just made aware that the afterschool program is still available everyday so the optics of that are very questionable to me. How can a paid program remain fully available and full-time school not be?

So, I still question the unique community that you say we have, because this sounds like EVERY community that I know, including Littleton Preps. I would love to focus on a plan to move forward quickly, safely and smartly to get all of our children back to school Full time this school year and not look back. No 911 commission needed, let's just get it right moving forward, for ALL of our kids.

Sincerely,  
Carter Family

Good afternoon LPCS Board of Directors,

I am writing again to express my concern in the half day model for my sons who attend LPCS. I have written and expressed my concern at the last board meeting in January and although I have haven't received any correspondence from the board I felt it was necessary to write again.

I have seen justification in the half days by saying the children are only lacking 40% of the school day, this baffles me, since when was a job done at 60% sufficient?

The half day model does not set up our children for success, my kids are struggling with the amount of idle time they have after school. They are bored and unstimulated (I want to emphasize we do not allow our boys to play video games and watch a bunch of shows after school but having so much time to fill is difficult) but 20 mins of Lexia and 20 mins of reading is really not enough to keep their brains stimulated and challenged. Our kids need to be in school

and I feel like the kids whose parents have chosen to send them to school are getting the short end of the stick, especially given that we were given very limited choice in the matter (giving a guided survey with limited choice, ie hybrid, fully remote, or out, is not a fair survey and doesn't represent the whole.

I am really hoping you guys will reconsider the model we are doing and hopefully we get the kids in school for full days.

Thank you,  
Margot Hale

### **LPCS Staff Public Comments:**

As a 1st Grade Team, we want to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Administration and Governing Board for their continued support and efforts to keep the staff and students safe while providing an educational environment conducive to learning in this time of a Global Pandemic. With the decision of the 60% school day, we support this because it allows us as teachers to have the time to plan and make sure that we are meeting curriculum standards. We do not feel that this has changed the academic level that LPCS offers. While we understand that the shortened day has been a hard adjustment, we still have been able to focus on learning. It is impossibly difficult to balance the needs of all in the community. However, the administration and governing board have done a great job making the decisions necessary to focus on what is most important. We fully support the decisions that they have made on the community's behalf.

Thank you in advance for the time and consideration you are placing in this decision-making process. Based on the consistency of academics we are consistently sustaining in our current hybrid model. Pivoting to a full return for one week, prior to Spring Break seems unnecessarily disruptive to the classroom momentum we already have in place. In essence, in an effort to achieve the goal of optimal transition from hybrid to full-return, and for students across a spectrum of learning styles and needs, I see the approach of better-right-than-fast as more intentional to serving the needs of our students as a whole.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to thank you, the Board, and our administration for working so hard to keep our students and teachers safe and having that as your guiding principle when making difficult decisions. I will also share that I am feeling anxious about possible moves towards bringing more students back as well as any increases to the school day before more staff have had the opportunity to get vaccinated. I would ask that the Board consider spring break and how that may impact Covid cases in our community and school when deciding on the next steps. I feel that being cautious and taking measured steps is in everyone's best interest. Again, thank you for your support and consideration of the feelings of teachers and staff.

Littleton Prep's mission is to provide an excellent education for our students while providing a safe, orderly, and caring environment.

Many of our families choose Littleton Prep for a reason, we help children overcome many difficulties including academics, social-emotional needs, and more. I can personally attest that our administration is considering every perspective before decision-making.

Their biggest consideration is balancing what is best for ALL of the families of this community (instead of the majority) while also trying to ensure that the teachers and staff feel safe, valued,

and prioritized during this pandemic. The essential workers of this school, want to see our students in person, we miss them but we want it to be done safely because we care deeply about our students well being. In addition, we want the teachers that provide this amazing education and critical interventions to return safely for years to come. This is a community, we all share the common goal of seeing our students, happy, healthy, and ready to reconnect. Please consider that we value you, your children, this community we share, this school we all attend deeply. Our school does not tolerate bullying, name-calling, or disruptive behavior even when students are valid in their frustrations. Our administration is keeping our school's values, standards, and adhering to our code of conduct in alignment with our communications tonight and we hope the rest of the community can keep these in mind as we all work towards a solution.

To finish, I want to include a quote from the Code of Conduct. In all instances, students shall be expected to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, acting with due regard for the supervisory authority vested by the Board in all district employees, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, the widely shared use of district property and the rights and welfare of other students AND staff.

Please let parents know by staying Hybrid we are continuing to offer constant learning even if students are being quarantined. If we reopen as normal and many teachers get sick there might not be enough substitutes to cover us and this will be worse. These are hard times for all of us, we really want to go back to normal, however, these are not normal times. Thank you for understanding.

Good evening. As a teacher, I would voice my concern about the entire school returning to school in-person 5 days a week. I don't think just returning to school for the 5-8th graders is as easy as people think. There are a lot of pieces to this and if we don't take the time to really think about these, we could make an even bigger mess of an already frustrating situation. As a parent, I can understand the difficulties with kids learning remotely. I see the struggle with my own kids. It is not an easy situation. As a teacher, I can understand the frustrations. It is frustrating on all aspects. It is frustrating and demoralizing to read comments from people that think we should lose our jobs that we have "clearly stopped working for". I have a deep respect for every one of my colleagues, from the top down. They are some of the hardest working people I have ever worked with in my life. I want more than anything for us to be in-person every day. I love seeing my students in the classroom and building that special repour. That being said, I am not okay with just returning 5-day because some people think it's that easy. If we rush to return to full in-person, what happens after spring break, when many families will be traveling, seeing more people than is safe? What happens if we have to transition to fully remote again because of a quarantine? Many more students and teachers will be affected by this than are now. It is more difficult for students, families, and teachers to keep transitioning between remote/in-person. Also, according to CDC, in order to return, everyone must socially distance at least 6 feet with a mask, especially when indoors around people who don't live in your household. It is already difficult to do this and will be non-existent with more students in person. I've heard teachers need to be vaccinated in order for full in-person to work. We have had quite a few teachers in our school already get their first shots, however, we also have many who will not be able to get their first shot until later next week or after. It will be 3-4 weeks after that they can get their 2nd shot. Then it takes 2 weeks after to be immune. That runs us into April, if not later. Also, we will no doubt have students that need to stay remote for one reason or another. To just tell them they

have to transfer to TOPS is not fair to them. They want to stay with Littleton Prep. and have elected remote at LP instead of TOPS. For middle school, the registration request to TOPS deadline is tomorrow. I have other concerns as a teacher, but I also think that what we have been doing as a school, what we have accomplished in one of the toughest times, has been amazing. We have worked very hard to build this program and to help each student succeed. As teachers/staff, we are here to not only help the kids academically but to also keep them and everyone else safe.

Unlike other schools, we at LPCS interact with a number of different groups of students every day. We are not self-contained classrooms. In order to maintain the spirit of LPCS, we need to continue to follow our current model for instruction as closely as possible. With thousands of people in line to receive a vaccine, I feel increasing the number of students in the building to a point where physical distancing is impossible to maintain, is irresponsible. A March 29th full return date at least gives more teachers the chance to get vaccinated or be closer to full immunity. (Especially when weather delays the delivery of the vaccine.) Education is vital, but please remember this is a potentially fatal virus, and caring about the community means doing what is best for as many people as possible.

As a teacher, I would like for students who are fully remote and earning C's, D's, and F's in their classes to have to return to the building unless they have a medically verified reason to remain at home. They need the benefit of direct access to their teachers and the learning environment provided in our classrooms in order to get back on track.

Continuing to teach a few students remotely and to almost a full class of in-person students is a lot of extra work. I would like for it to be considered that teachers no longer have to record and post videos to Google Classroom. Students are either present in the classroom or watching live lessons or they need to find schooling elsewhere.

Returning to a full school day is a really troublesome thought for me as a classroom teacher for the following reasons: 1. I spend an incredible amount of time cleaning and sanitizing my classroom every day after carpool. If the school day was extended to 3:30, carpool wouldn't end until 3:40 and I would have to use that time to clean my room instead of to prep for the next day. 2. Since last March, the teaching staff has been working incredible hours to adapt to and troubleshoot all the challenges technology has presented to us. We are constantly working whether it be grading, writing lessons, or answering parent emails. We rarely leave our job at school when we leave for the day. 3. Preparing and organizing work for in-person and remote learners take more time as it is delivered to and received from students at different times. The parent community might think that the teaching staff is just slacking off in the afternoon, but nothing could be farther from the truth. 4. Finally, ending the day at 12:30 and continuing to not eat lunch at school will give the teaching staff less exposure to someone with asymptomatic COVID. It will also give students a shorter time period wearing their masks which seems so bothersome to some parents.

I think it is important for the LPCS community to understand what the teachers are doing after 12:40 and why dismissing at that time has been valuable: 1. Organizing the homework that is due each day takes much time. Not only are they organizing that day's homework, but the homework

that students have missing coming in also takes time. 2. In there they have their lunch break, about 30 minutes. 3. Teachers have an hour devoted to office hours for students who may need extra one-on-one with the teacher. 4. Teachers then are planning for the next day and get those plans posted to be ready to go active the next morning, and post the videos of that day's lessons on Google Classroom. 5. They then are emailing parents, students, and administration. 6. Some days they have meetings to attend. 7. Throughout all of this they are trying to get caught up on grading, a lot is being brought home to do in the evenings and weekends. 8. Making copies of packets to be ready to send home for the hybrid learners and the fully remote learners. 9. Sanitizing their classrooms thoroughly because they want to utilize ALL the time they have for teaching and not for having the students clean their spots. 10. Having to refill their sanitizers and sanitizing bottles, when necessary.

I am concerned that we are considering this when COVID is still spreading and most of the population will not be vaccinated by the end of the school year. Families should be concerned about their students bringing COVID home. Our school is structured very differently than other LPS schools. Due to ability grouping, we are not able to keep students in small class cohorts. Lunch and specials classes would present their own challenges. Students would not gain any academic time in math and ELA classes.

Comment to the Governing Board 2/18/21 Elizabeth Houser

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have been on staff at LPCS for close to 21 years. Three of my five children have attended K-8. I served on the Governing Board before I joined the staff. This school is my passion, and it and its students mean a great deal to me. I would like to comment on the proposed return to all in-person learning. I am a fully remote teacher for kindergarten this year. Think about that for about 10 seconds... But it is going better than I could have ever imagined. My sweet students and I have formed a close and caring classroom family bond. I am so pleased with how well they are doing. This being said, I find it very offensive that it would seem acceptable to anyone that I abandon my students to a completely foreign educational system, with someone overseeing a much larger group of students with no continuity of curriculum. We made a commitment to our families that chose fully remote learning. One family's needs are not more important than any other family in our school. No school that I know of goes to the lengths that we do to serve each individual student's needs. I am very proud of what we do at LPCS and am grateful every day to be a part of it.

Our school is a school of choice, I think it is fine to express disagreement in a civil manner. But I think that the bottom line is if our school isn't a good fit for your family, then there are many other schools to choose from, including another Charter School. To abandon our remote students and families at this point in the school year so that our students can have specials for the last quarter of school is unacceptable. We all want our students back full time but pushing it through before vaccines are done and at the expense of our remote students isn't the answer.

## **Todd Porter Resignation letter, presented to Governing Board 1/23/2021:**

Hello LPCS Governing Board

I wanted to follow up my statement from the Thursday night with a written formal resignation for the board. I appreciate the opportunity provided to be on the board with the intention of giving back to the school after everything it has done to help our children. However, as I stated during the meeting, I cannot support the direction that the school has chosen to take with respect to limiting access to in-person learning for all of the LPCS school community and I feel that my influence and advocacy as a community pediatrician and parent will be more effective and more clean than as a member of the Governing Board. This resignation does not mean that I have given up advocating to the Board for return to in-person learning for K-8 so you will likely continue to hear from me as an invested parent and pediatrician. I will also continue my efforts with advocating at the district and state level as is highlighted by this wonderful Charting Pediatrics Podcast by Dr. Sean O'Leary, Pediatric Infectious Disease physician at Children's Hospital Colorado

[https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9jaGFydGluZ3BIZGlhdHJpY3MubGlic3luLmNvbS9yc3M/episode/ZTU4NmVIOWItYWw4Zi00YmRjLTk0YWwMtYzQwNGY3NmQ4ZTNm?ep=14&fbclid=IwAR2oJfoexgPZS5ZjTj0cQMIxn1i6MUVaPDJ-NH6W3J\\_NvykTyvFUll2ou9I](https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9jaGFydGluZ3BIZGlhdHJpY3MubGlic3luLmNvbS9yc3M/episode/ZTU4NmVIOWItYWw4Zi00YmRjLTk0YWwMtYzQwNGY3NmQ4ZTNm?ep=14&fbclid=IwAR2oJfoexgPZS5ZjTj0cQMIxn1i6MUVaPDJ-NH6W3J_NvykTyvFUll2ou9I)

I do want to respond to a comment that Dana made during the discussion period on Thursday night. To paraphrase, it was said that no industry in the country would expect their staff to work in an environment that does not allow for social distancing. I invite any of you to come shadow me at work in my outpatient clinic to see this statement simply is not true. There is no social distancing in healthcare. All staff are up close and personal with patients who are different everyday and may be presenting with symptoms that could be due to COVID. The PPE we use is similar to what is available in schools. I would also venture to say that grocery store workers do not have much guarantee in social distancing either and have no environmental control on who enters the facility. I think it is important to have that perspective.

From the perspective of a parent, I also must make one more observation about the staff comments about finding it difficult and not ideal to have to teach from home. I feel that this comment represents a lack of empathy for the students who have to learn remotely due to the hybrid model and also struggle with the same challenges. I just hope that when making decisions there is due consideration on the unprecedented hardships on parents who have had to quit jobs or take on more of a teacher role at home due to the school's current hybrid half-day schedule.

I will leave you with a links to more articles and information and will continue to share these as I come across them.

Editorial written by the aforementioned Dr. Sean O'Leary

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2775655?guestAccessKey=3034095a-354f-4b93-9fb5-cf6f5d3cb64e&utm\\_source=silverchair&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=article\\_alert-jamapediatrics&utm\\_content=olf&utm\\_term=012221](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2775655?guestAccessKey=3034095a-354f-4b93-9fb5-cf6f5d3cb64e&utm_source=silverchair&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_alert-jamapediatrics&utm_content=olf&utm_term=012221)

Attached is the NC school study I referenced on Thursday and an infographic from the Colorado Alliance for In-Person Learning

Respectfully,

Todd Porter, MD, MSPH