



Press Release

Date: 12/9/20

APEA RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO BUILDINGS

In a public statement on December 9, the Amherst-Pelham Educators Association responded to the concerns of a group of community members advocating for an immediate renegotiation of terms for returning to in-person learning. The APEA thanked families for their partnership during distance learning, while citing several terms of the existing Memorandum of Agreement that have not been met by the school district, terms that would need to be met for a safe return to in-person.

The district-related issues that need resolution included the lack of district communication to APEA of ASHRAE air testing results, re-testing of those spaces that failed, and the need for a district plan for fitting in-person students in the buildings with six feet distancing.

The APEA applauded the news that Amherst is a priority district for rapid symptomatic testing. Safety, the APEA stated, is important for all students of the community, citing particularly Black and Brown communities hit hardest around the nation by the virus.

Karin Baker, teacher at Summit Academy High School and APEA Vice President, stated, "Everyone I know is working incredibly hard to make remote learning work right now, sharing tips with each other and responding to feedback. Some things are challenging, but also many of us are discovering approaches that work so well that we'll be incorporating them into our in-person teaching. Meanwhile, conversation is ongoing about what needs to happen to get back to that as quickly as possible."

The Amherst-Pelham Educators Association represents teachers, paraeducators, and clerical staff in the Amherst-Pelham school district.

For media inquiries, please contact: apea-exec-board@googlegroups.com