

Dear School Committee Members, Dr. Janger, and Dr. Bodie,

Thank you for all you have done to make this year so successful for our students. We realize that many people have put in a lot of time to create the models, this presentation, the explanatory videos, and the survey, and we appreciate your efforts.

However, we feel that less is more in this case and the safest and most successful path forward for our AHS teachers, administrators, and students is to continue with the current Semesterised model that works. We are deeply disappointed in the hybrid options presented for semester 2 at AHS, and for the strong push from the SC and administration that AHS must turn to hybrid learning. We strongly believe that we need to keep AHS remote on the current Semesterised schedule and not be left with an inferior Remote Academy.

The current model works. Why is the current Semesterised model not even a consideration since it appears to be working so well? From your presentation, slides 9 and 10 ("What we see") state that the students and faculty are becoming more proficient with remote instruction and that this provides more teacher-led instruction time with their students. Student engagement and attendance remain high in the current model. We are amazed that we would want to throw this away in favor of what appears to be three inferior models just over a "concern for social interaction." Slide 9 notes you are "(n)ot seeing increased levels of mental illness". What data and needs are behind the strong push for hybrid, except for the sake of being hybrid?

Hybrid does not mean better results for kids or parents. A recent [Mass INC research study](#) on Massachusetts parents views of their child's education during the pandemic noted that "Parents of hybrid students are much more negative than parents of fully remote or in-person students on the impacts of the school year."

AHS presents a special situation to the district. Just because the rest of the district is hybrid does not mean that AHS must go this route. AHS is the only school in the district under construction and the building conditions are so poor that it is not worthwhile to push resources here just to get students in the substandard school building for five months for limited social interaction.

Teachers and administrators do not need another change. These hard-working professionals have been working 10 hour days to reconfigure their courses to fit the Semesterised model. They would have to go back to square one to implement one of the hybrid models. They do not need to do this because the current model is working.

The current model is simple and supports executive function. The current Semesterised model provides consistency of schedules, eliminates lost instruction time for transportation, and allows for the greatest number of available classes. As noted in your slide presentation, the simplicity of that schedule also supports executive function – it is easy for students and for parents to understand. The three hybrid models each result in lost instruction time and are not simple for students, teachers, or administrators.

COVID cases are rising, and our AHS students are in an age group more likely to become sick than younger students. Since we are on the verge of having multiple COVID vaccines available, why would we want to consider more in-person exposure at this time? Our family has spent a considerable amount of effort limiting the amount of people we come into contact with and implementing ANY of the suggested options will increase this significantly.

You may feel that if we do not approve of any of the hybrid options that we should choose the remote option for our student. We plan to keep our junior remote for the second semester – which is her wish also - and would be disappointed if the Remote Academy becomes an inferior option to the current model that works so well. Your presentation noted that staffing up a full Remote Academy will take away from the number of available classes, further stretching town and school resources. We should keep the current Semesterised model and not be left with a different and mediocre Remote Academy. Keeping the courses for the second semester that my junior currently has on her schedule is key.

Our student has predicted: "we will start going back into school, there will be a spike in COVID-19 infections, and we will be back where we started from in February." We can't agree more with this assessment.

The beginning of the survey states that the goal is to improve services to our students. The three proposed hybrid models seem to be solely focused on increasing in-person interaction and each has noted significant weaknesses – including loss of instruction time - when compared to the current Semesterised model of remote instruction. Please consider keeping the model we have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Goodsell, Ed.M.

Ian Goodsell, Town Meeting Member Precinct 11