

Portland Public Schools Reopening Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, June 30th 9:00 am

Google Meet

Present: Charles Britton, Carl Johnson, Chris Serra, Clem Wiekrykas, Dave Opuszynski, Dawn Davis, Grace Darby, Kate Lawson, Linda Martin, Marlene McKinney, Michelle Ianello, Nancy Bakos, Patti Toller, Gabby (Portland Athletic Trainer), Ralph Zampano, Ryan Walstrom, Sharon Peters, Sue McDougall

9:00 am Meeting called to order

Continue Discussion of CIAC Resocialization Guidelines

Chris Serra and Gabby finished reviewing the resocialization guidelines received from the CIAC. Chris said that after today's reopening committee meeting, he was meeting with athletic directors from the region. Chris plans to align his recommendations with athletic programming in neighboring towns. Pending input from athletic directors in the region, Chris will present a recommendation to Charles. The recommendation will cover the period from July 13th – August 1st and will request permission to allow small groups of no more than five athletes to begin meeting outdoors for conditioning.

Kate mentioned that she would be more comfortable with the trainer present the conditioning.

Chris agreed.

Sharon asked that the added cost of the trainer be included with the recommendation.

Dave asked if there were any requirements for physicals and medical clearance. Kate and Chris responded that they had received additional guidance. Chris said that he would check with the athletic directors in the region to see what they are doing.

Charles asked if anyone on the committee had additional questions. After a few questions, Charles asked if anyone on the committee had any concerns about Chris's planning. There were no concerns. Charles thanked Chris for his effort and said he was looking forward to receiving the recommendation. Once the recommendation is received, Charles will review it with Dave Opuszynski and share the recommendation with the Portland Board of Education. Charles said that while no decision are made, the potential to begin athletics after July 16th would be a wonderful step forward in the process.

Begin Discussing Guidelines for Reopening School (assuming guidelines are received this week)

Charles asked the committee members to open two tabs on their screen. In the first tab, Charles asked the committee to have the CT Reopening Guidelines that were received yesterday; in the second tab, Charles asked the committee to open the Google Doc that he shared. Charles asked the committee to review pages 4 and 5 of the reopening guidelines. Charles read the section addressing the Fall Reopening Model and pointed out the section that says "...so long as the data continues to support the model." Charles asked the committee to review the data received from the Chatham Health District about infection rates. Dave Opuszinsky said that the data trends are positive and that if those trends continue, the data would support the full, in-person reopening in the fall. Charles said that the infection rate and community spread would be carefully monitored over the summer.

Charles asked the committee to refer to the "Priorities" outlined on page 4 and 5. Charles explained that the Google Doc was organized to gather feedback for each of the priorities. Charles asked the committee members to reach out to their constituencies and gather questions, concerns, and expectations, and organize the feedback under each of the priorities in the Google Doc.

There was discussion about how the data could and should be gathered. Charles asked the committee to gather the feedback before the next committee meeting on July 6th.

Charles explained that concurrent with the work of the reopening committee, the district leadership team would be carefully reviewing the guidelines and using the guidelines to prepare for the fall. The plans developed at the building levels would be shared with the reopening committee.

Sharon said that a parent survey should be developed. Charles agreed. Charles stated that part of the data gathering process would also necessitate identifying what parents would not send their student back to school in-person. Charles explained that the district will need to accommodate students who do not return for in-person schooling.

Ralph asked about classroom configurations to promote social distancing. Kate and Ryan said that they were beginning that process and that the new flexibility in the guidelines (compared to the Summer School guidelines) were more manageable.

Charles said that 10:00 am had arrived. Charles asked committee members who are 10-month district employees to keep track of the hours they spend doing reopening committee work.

Meeting Adjourned – 10:01 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Britton