

## Portland Public Schools Reopening Committee

### Agenda

Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 am

### Google Meet

### Minutes

In attendance; Charles Britton, Linda Martin, Sharon Peters, Patti Toller, Kate Lawson, Ralph Zampano, Ryan Walstrom, Sue McDougall, Marlene McKinley, Chris Serra, Grace Darby, Vanessa Aquino, Michele Iannello, Dawn Davis, Clem W

Call meeting at 9:01AM

Charles mentioned we will cut the meeting short at 10:30AM to accommodate the administrators to arrive to their in person meeting for 11:30AM. Looking to meet again on Thursday to finalize plans by the CSDE due date.

### **Survey Data Responses Families, Faculty and Staff-**

Hand out with general statistics, and looking to reach out again to make sure peoples plans may have changed between July and end of August. Most staff have completed the survey and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of families have yet to complete the survey.

Concerns of the “uncertain” category as answers may change either way- to attend in person or to agree to distance learning. The intention is to count the uncertain category as agreeing to in-person instruction. Sharon Peters suggested discussion on this extended to this evening’s policy meeting. Kate’s concerns with the strength of internet service families have while receiving distance learning instruction. Many families have multiple children in multiple grades, all trying to achieve a good experience, while the heftiness of their internet streaming may not allow it successfully. Discussion on usage of phones over tablets/computers as well as additional “hot spots” from internet carriers. Vanessa Aquino would like to see paper packets to go hand in hand with the online instruction, as this was helpful for her children. Ryan felt this would work well for the lower grades as a hybrid solution. Sue McDougall feels packets may not be beneficial for grades 6 and up. Charles summarized the data by saying once we get the the surveys completed, there will be a 3 part schedule in place; 1) all in-person instruction, 2) some in, some distance learning, and 3) hybrid solution. Then they will create transition plans for those deciding to come in after at home instruction, and for those deciding in-person instruction would be a better fit.

### **Facilities Update-**

Can we accommodate 100% of our student population, while being able to maintain the 6 foot social distancing requirements. The answer is yes. The administrative teams, Carl Johnson went through each building and their respective offices to map out the best solution for each.

### **Valley View-**

The new set up will require us to rent storage facilities to store the students desks/tables. In turn, Carl Johnson's team will build 180 2'x2' desks to allow face forwarding seating. Although this is not developmentally appropriate, it will allow the students and teachers to maintain the required distances. Additionally, building of the desks will be much more cost effective than purchasing 180 desks. Carl and Pete have devised a way to use finished plywood and closet dowels for the legs of the feet. All of this will be discussed at this evening's BOE meeting, pending their approval.

#### **Gildersleeve-**

Most of the classrooms have desks, and of the 180 being built, 55 will come to GES. Ryan discussed that the classrooms can handle 18-19 desks and being in compliance with the social distancing regulations. Additional safety features intended are directional traveling in hallways, assigning bathrooms to each grade, specials and lunches in the classrooms.

Health Offices will each need "isolation areas." Both health offices in VV and GES will be moving their offices to accommodate, but will not be a huge financial burden. Carl will get quotes for some HVAC to add air conditioning and some minor plumbing changes.

#### **Brownstone-**

No desks need to be built, classroom set up will be formatted similar to VV and GES design. This health office needs more work in order to have an isolation area and may need to move.

#### **PMS-**

A majority of the classrooms are not large enough to accommodate 20-21 students with 6 foot social distancing, so they are looking into repurposing other larger rooms to make this work. Thoughts of having the teachers change classrooms instead of all the students passing through the halls was discussed. Chris Serra and Sue McDougall both voiced concerns on using these rooms, which may deter socialization, exercise, teaching specials and proper ventilation. The health office will not have to move and there is a space for an isolation room across the hall. Plexiglass will be installed throughout the building for additional safety measures. Grace asked who would be watching the students in their classrooms as the teachers changed classrooms.

#### **PHS-**

This building has different classroom sizes throughout. Discussion of outside spaces intended to be used for teaching gym class, lunch, study halls and specials. Talk of going from 7 periods to 4 in a given day with the possibility of a hybrid solution. Many ideas regarding setting up guidance meetings, bathrooms, passing through the hallways and carrying of back-packs. The AD's office has been claimed for additional health office space. Grace asked about the "band wing," Kate Lawson stated she had some thoughts of continuing as there will be plenty of space to spread out. She is awaiting direction from the state.

Charles wrapped up by saying the "Framework" portion is mostly complete- which encompasses, 6 foot social distancing, the wearing of face masks and rearranging physical spaces. Once these steps are approved, the next steps will be the educational piece.

Chris Serra praised the administrators and all that are working so hard to put this in place, and he's willing to do whatever is necessary to get the kids back in school.

Next Re-Opening Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 9AM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32AM

