

## Portland Public Schools Reopening Committee

Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 am

Google Meet

Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Britton, Dawn, Kate, Ryan, Sharon, Michele Iannello, Marlene, Patti, Sue McDougall, Clem W, Chris Serra, Dave O., Grace Darby, Linda Martin, Ralph Zampano, Carl Johnson

Call to order 9:00AM

Dr. Britton reviewed the Connecticut LRA Reopening Template that is due to the CT State Department of Education on July 24, 2020. The Board of Education will be discussing, with possible action to approve, our reopening template at the Special Board meeting tonight, July 21, 2020 at 6pm.

Several areas of the template were discussed, reflecting reality as we know it to date:

### Fall Reopening School Plan

The Portland Public Schools has developed three plans to support teaching and learning in the 2020-21 school year. These plans are designed to be flexible and respond to COVID-19 transmission rates and advice from state and local health officials.

Discussion on maintaining 6 feet social distancing for students and staff to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines. Classrooms will be configured to create 6ft of distance between workstations. Faculty and staff will encourage students to maintain the distancing requirements.

The following reopening plans were discussed:

Plan A – Full Reopening (Low Risk of Transmission)

Plan B – Hybrid (Moderate Risk of Transmission)

Plan C – Distance Learning (High Risk of Transmission)

As of July, 2020 responses from a survey sent to parents indicate 8% will not be sending their children to school, 26% indicate they are uncertain, and 6--% indicate they will send their children to school. The district will be prepared to offer families who choose not to participate in in-person learning a distance learning program of studies at all grade levels and in all content areas K-12. Another survey will be sent to parents in August asking again if they are planning to send their children in-person to school.

Dawn Davis will serve as the Portland Health and Safety Compliance Liaison.

### Facilities

Discussion on ventilation in the buildings. Carl J. will research on purchasing fans to install in windows to move air outside. Interior rooms will have air filters changed more frequently.

### Daily Operations

In grades K-8, building principals are creating class lists and designing schedules that will create stable cohorts of students during the school day. In grades 9-12, as it is not feasible to create stable

cohorts the same way, the high school has revised the bell schedule to create instructional blocks. The high school is also modifying how students travel through building and interact in various locations throughout the building.

School Clubs/Activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Park and Recreation/Outside groups who use the school buildings will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

YMCA/Kids Blast will continue to be housed in the school buildings.

### Athletics

Chris S. will continue communications with other districts and CIAC regarding athletics and will keep the committee up-to-date with information. Chris will also communicate with students athletes and provide information and guidelines for sports.

### Child Nutrition

The Portland Public Schools has developed a plan to provide all child nutrition needs in each of the three reopening models that have been developed. The district will continue to meet all expectations associated with the National School Lunch Program, determine eligibility and make available free and reduced-price meals and snacks to all eligible students.

### Transportation

The district has not received guidance that identifies what is considered low, moderate, and high transmission risk. Once that guidance is received, the Portland Public Schools will use the guide to determine the extent to which the district is able to meet all statutory requirements for providing transportation to any families who need transportation to and from school. From the parent survey, 66% of parents will require transportation, 34% indicate they would provide transportation to school. The building principals will reach out to the Portland Police Department to review student drop off/pick up locations at each school due to the increase of parents driving/picking up students.

### Health Practice ad Protocols

Due to the amount of information, the constantly changing nature of the information, and the occasionally inconsistent messaging from officials, the Portland Public Schools has defaulted to CDC guidelines, CT Health Department recommendations, recommendations from the Chatham Health District, and the Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together to design the policies and procedure articulated in the district's reopening plan.

### Reporting Illnesses

The district has developed a self-assessment health screen. All students will be trained in how to use the self-assessment. Parents will be trained how to use the assessment with younger children. All students and families will be encouraged to use the health assessment screen to self-screen prior to coming to school. Also, schools will communicate school-wide sick protocols, including signs and symptoms of COVID-19. All students, families, and staff will be instructed to immediately notify school nurses or administrators if they have COVID-19 related symptoms, diagnosed with COVID-19, or have had a known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and have had contact with the school population.

### Face Masks

Policy #4118.237 Face Masks, will be a first reading at tonight's Board of Education meeting at 6pm.

### Health Monitoring Plan

The district will not provide daily screening of students, faculty and staff. However, the district will be prepared if, at the recommendation of state and local departments of public health, screenings are initiated based on local factors such as confirmed cases or known exposures. If required, school nurses will conduct the screening prior to the start of the school day. School nurses will also be prepared to assess students, faculty, and staff who present with COVID-19 related symptoms. School will be peanut free.

### Containment Plan

The Portland Public Schools will carefully review the forthcoming tiered system and decision-making approach recommended by the Connecticut Department of Health. Dr. Britton will rely on the decision-making guide and advice from local health officials in the Chatham Health District when making decisions about school/district closure, and which of the three models and safe to implement. *(Dave O. and Liz will review)*

### Cancellation of Classes, Remote Learning, and Reopening Plans

The district will be prepared to implement the various models in real-time using the same process that the district uses to respond to weather-related cancellations and reopening. Should the district decide to transition from 100% in-person to hybrid; 100% in-person to distance learning; or hybrid to distance learning, Dr. Britton will notify and consult with the CSDE.

### Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning

The Portland Public Schools is prepared to transition to distance learning in a hybrid model during which 50% of the students will be remote, and full distance learning during which 100% of students will be remote. The hybrid and distance learning models will provide students the same grade level and content area experiences facilitated by the same highly qualified educators who students interact with during the full, in-person learning model.

### Special Education

The Portland Public Schools is preparing to begin the school year with a plan that recognizes the district's obligation to implement provision outlined under the IDEA for FAPE in the LRE. In the 100% in-person model, the district will be able to implement all support services and facilitate all accommodations and modification outlined in each student's individualized education plan for those students who choose to return to school in-person. The district is working through the planning and placement team process to consider and redesign individualized education plans for those students who choose to participate in distance learning.

### Family and Student Engagement

#### Staffing and Personnel

Committee members will review these two sections and discussion will continue at the next committee meeting. If the Board of Education takes action tonight and approves the Portland Public Schools Reopening Template, the committee will meet next Tuesday, July 28, 2020. If the Board does not approve the template tonight, the committee will meet on Thursday, July 23, 2020 for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am