

Portland Public Schools Reopening Committee

Agenda

Thursday July 16th from 9:00 – 11:00 am

Google Meet

Minutes

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

Call to order 9:00AM

Charles gave a brief update on the Tuesday Administrator's meeting and walk-throughs. Topics of discussion were cohorting and social distancing. They will double check data collected regarding kids coming back and classroom set ups.

There was a "Stay Put" model designed for K-8th grade, which models one classroom teacher, multiple doors for entry- depending on location of classroom and cohorts. The students would leave the classroom for bathroom and recess breaks. Looking to schedule 2 recesses.

The High School model would move to a block schedule, with 4 scheduled blocks daily instead of 8 periods. Looking to have 4 lunch waves to be in compliance with the less than 100 person gathering. Also working on the classes that cannot be taught on a chromebook. No locker room access and "supervised" bathroom visits.

Building Principals would arrange 3 schedules-

#1) all-in = GREEN/low cases

#2) DL = RED/high amount of cases

#3) hybrid = YELLOW/moderate cases- no determining facts/percentage provided

Teacher Rep, Sue McDougall voiced concerns on behalf of the teachers

- #1 concern was VL was HARD because it took more hours than 8AM-3PM
- stay put model would not work for grades 7 & 8
- cohort model exposes teachers greatly because of their shared resources
- mask breaks need to be mapped out and discussed
- crisis intervention teams need information on how to handle (no pun intended)
- PD (deck) committee
- specials teachers traveling between buildings
- music and reading specialists
- engagement from students some because of weak internet connection
- special ed teachers want to know how to handle student goals and of the possibility of wearing scrubs for infection protection
- concerned about sharing "their own" classroom
- student testing/how

- ventilation and temperature limits
- lockers

Limited discussion on the newly approved school calendar regarding PD/half days and return date for administrative assistants.

Grace Darby, student representative voiced concerns of the students (mostly high school)
Grace DOES support outside lunch for socialization

- Clubs, sports and student activities
- will block classes limit availability to students
- Bathroom policy

Kate Lawson was able to address some of Grace's concerns, stating upperclassmen have priority to class schedules, but has not been a problem in the past. The bathrooms may have limited use and overseeing usage. Clubs and activities are being looked at as being held outside and as long as we continue to wear masks. Kate suggests a "Mask are Cool" campaign.

Clem W, parent representative voiced parent concerns

- Some are fearful, some don't think the virus is an imminent threat
- Both cases need more education/communication on safety practices
- Communication in the form of town hall platform for each school

All the parents he spoke with are in favor of sending their kids to school in the fall.

Sharon Peters did state that the BOE has discussed town hall meetings as a means of communication to families and staff.

Linda Martin, representative for the custodial staff is looking for an idea of what the schedules will look like for the fall.

Ralph Zampano, BOS representative spoke on the safety concerns if we were to have the students in the buildings while doors and windows remained open. Additional thought was the availability of PPE if we were to get hit harder for the next wave.

Kate Lawson has concerns that the administrators will get burned out with the constant demand and changes occurring weekly. Portland needs to be mindful of health and well being of all students and staff.

Charles plans to have the drafted plan available Monday evening to Reopening Committee Members for discussion Tuesday, July 21st meeting, which will then be presented to the BOE at their special meeting on the same evening.

Adjourn 11:02AM

