

Portland Public Schools Reopening Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, June 23rd 9:00 am

Google Meet

Present: Charles Britton, [On July 1st] Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools
Dawn Davis, Portland Director of Student Services
Kate Lawson, Portland High School Principal
Ryan Walstrom, Gildersleeve Elementary School Principal
Sharon Peters, Portland Board of Education Liaison
Ralph Zamparo, Portland Town Council Liaison
Liz Davidson, Chatham Health Director. Liz Davidson
Sue McDougal, CEA-Portland Representative
Carl Johnson, Portland Facilities Director
Linda Martin, Portland Facilities Representative
Dave Opuszynski, Portland Nursing representative
Chris Serra, Portland Director of Athletics
Beth Johnson, Portland Transportation Director
Patti Toller, Administrative Assistant Unit Representative
Marlene McKinney, Paraprofessional Unit Representative
Parent Rep, Clement Wiekrykas
Parent Rep, Vanessa Aquino
Grace Darby, Student Representative

9:00 am Meeting Called to Order

Playground Updates

Carl Johnson reported that the school's playgrounds are open. Signs have been posted at the playgrounds providing guidelines for usage. Ralph reported that town playgrounds are also open. BIS basketball course is also open for community use.

Finish Discussion of *Rules for Operating Summer School During COVID 19*

Transportation Needs

Charles referred the committee to page 15 of the *Rules for Operating Summer School During COVID 19*. Charles clarified that the *Rules for Operating Summer School During COVID 19* are not guidelines for the fall school reopening; the committee was reminded that we are using the summer reopening guidelines as a model to examine what schools might need if the summer guidelines are not modified for the fall.

Charles introduced Deb Johnson, Portland Director of Transportation, and asked Deb to brief the committee on how the summer school guidelines for transportation would influence the district's ability to transport students to school.

Ms. Johnson explained that in the zig-zag seating arrangement, the carrying capacity for a bus would be 10-11 students. The district currently has 10 buses with 2 spares. In the zig-zag seating arrangement, the district would need 58 buses to transport all students to school. Ms. Johnson explained that it would be impossible to acquire that many buses and that many drivers. It would also be prohibitively expensive. Ms. Johnson explained she is part of a statewide transportation collaborative called CASO. CASO is advising transportation directors and is working closely with CAPPS, CASBO, and the State. Ms. Johnson also explained that considerations have to be made for co-curricular, extracurricular, and special population transportation.

Charles stated that Deb's analysis matches reality if "all" students were brought back to school in the zig zag seating. Charles explained that additional State guidelines are expected this week and that those guidelines may modify transportation requirements. The committee will need to consider those guidelines and consider transportation in the context of all in-person, hybrid, and distance learning models.

Update on Summer School (ESY) Plans

Dawn explained that ESY programming will be online this summer. Parents of students in ESY have been notified. Distance learning classes are being formed and will run from July 6th – July 30th. Materials have been ordered and will be delivered to student homes. Dawn will monitor the ESY programming and may recommend some in-person learning in late-July.

Begin Discussion of CIAC Resocialization Guidelines

Chris Serra, Portland Athletic Director, and Gabby, Portland's athletic trainer, began reviewing the CIAC Guidelines. Chris informed coaches and the community that the district will not sponsor any summer conditioning until July 6th and only after State, local health officials, and the district provides clearance. The district is not affiliated with any private athletic programs. On July 6th, the guidelines state that up to 5-6 athletes can resume conditioning with guidelines. Gabby explained that the conditioning is critical for the health and safety of our athletes prior to beginning the fall season. Chris reviewed expectations associated with face masks, health screening, and physicals.

Charles informed Chris that the 10:00 am deadline for the meeting had arrived. The committee will pick up the discussion of the CIAC guidelines on June 30th.

Begin Discussing Options for Opening School

Continued Distance Learning

All In-Person According to Guidelines

Hybrid

Charles informed the committee that he believes we will receive new guidelines from the State this Thursday. When the guidelines are received, Charles will email the guidelines to the committee. Charles asked the committee to carefully read the guidelines. Charles hopes that next Tuesday (assuming we receive the guidelines) the committee will be able to start putting together a plan. The plan will likely involve the design of three models – distance learning, all in-person learning, and a hybrid of in-person and distance learning.

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Britton