

SPS-Safe School Reopening Task Force – Sub Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 7/21/2020

Committee Name: Secondary Educational Model

Member Names: Adam Swinyard, Heather Bybee, Scott Kerwien, Rob Reavis, Josh Harrison, Susie Gerard, Joel Evanson, Mark Lund, Theresa Meyer, Ken Schutz, Cindy McMahon, Laura Treece, Megan McLean, Eric Hauck, Scott Detlefs, Dan Nord, Ellen Gillespie, Shamerica Nakamura, Ashley Coulson, Dean Tyler-Babkirk, John Parks, Stephanie Splater, Carol Pederson, Shawn Jordan, Kelly Camak

Meeting Notes:

Suzanne Smith is joining us today to share the SPS At Home School update that families who are not comfortable sending their students to school until there is a vaccine, will have the option for if we are able to go in person.

Suzanne – “SPS at Home” is for K-6 and SVL and On-Track Academy at Home is for 8-12.

Major work of the full distance subcommittee was about building something remote for families who choose not to come back in the fall. Several weeks ago, a survey went out to families to find out how many are not coming back in the fall, for sure, if we open our doors – 500 families replied some kind of remote option but the number has grown since the initial survey – families concerned about coming back will have the “SPS at Home” option for younger kids. In SVL a student is able to access full distance learning if they are not coming back to the school year. SVL has been working on strengthening the 9-12th classes and format for core classes and electives and also working on MS classes for more options at that level as there were not as many students attending those classes and so MS would have 6 different teachers. 7th 8th and 9th graders have higher disengagement with 6 different teachers - online disengagement at that age level is not good so they are looking at tracking and at an advisory model and what that would look like to track students etc. The subcommittee is working on that. On Track Academy at Home is for 9-12 and Lisa Mattson’s group is developing that - more of an ALE and not SVL platform. Individualized learning plans with interaction with a teacher helping and guiding their learning in addition to instructing the core pieces. More of a blended model – a lot of pieces around SEL, coaching for kids throughout the day where as SVL is more independent. Working at beginning of the year around the learning plan and Lisa will have 60 spots for remote kids. On Track Academy at Home will be for more of a kid who would be totally lost with SVL environment and maybe a kid who doesn’t have parent support or the drive so more 1:1 guiding to learning plan to fit their needs.

Most of the time of the full distance subcommittee has been spent around SPS at Home for younger kids and the schedule for teachers and less conversation around SVL and On-track Academy at Home.

For context – historically we’ve had under 20 students enrolled in SVL full time at elementary so a complete build. When you start getting into MS and HS any number of kids access SVL – don’t recommend they take it all the time. Completely different build and we talk about SVL and On Track at home when we look at the possibility of all of us starting remotely, it’s a different experience. We aren’t all going to SVL if we can’t start in buildings. Last count was over 200 secondary families interested in the options Suzanne laid out. Option schools fitting the need of those families not looking to come back at all, like a temporary option school – Good to make a distinction between all remote and virtual option.

Question - 200 kids – Would they take 6 FTE from every comprehensive HS - will we have to give that up to pay for this?

- We are working with HR partners and the Association around the process, it doesn’t cut evenly, then there’s the part about staff members who have really valid reasons they can’t participate in the in-person instruction. Until we know the models, we don’t know the impacted staffing.

Let’s say Nov. we are in Phase 4, do those kids in the online school stick with that or can they bounce back and forth?

- Historically if a student is SVL they could come back to brick and mortar; we will work through tighter protocols and decisions with families because of the impacts of these decisions, we might not have any room. We will work through that and what that language looks like for families and if/when we will take exceptions.

When you say the one for the younger kids is that for grades K- 6? Yes

No other questions from the group for Suzanne.

Becky Ramsey will talk through SPED considerations being looked at:

Becky will cover a few of the ideas that came out of the SPED subcommittee. MHOH Coordinator Michelle Gwinn worked with the MHOH teachers – if schools can open there is one way, if they can't open it's something else. They wanted their students at least 4 days a week if schools are open – we have a lot of medically fragile students who can't come so the 5th day would be to support homebound student instruction.

BI/DI students could come every day because class sizes are small enough to accommodate every day.

Resource students – finding a way to have them come on site every day for additional tutoring. High level priorities. OSPI initial guidance was prioritize space for students with disabilities – the subcommittee group felt it was important for students with disabilities to engage in distance learning. And if we are all remote – different ways to do that – for most kids our SPS tools are what they will use but those with more significant disabilities – we have specific tools we can use.

Becky said she would open it up for questions. It's hard to talk about details and will either say I can answer that, or I can't yet since we are still in negotiations.

No questions from the group.

Original ask from the group was to talk about the scope and sequence for secondary curriculum and what it could look like – don't know as we are not there yet, teams are just getting up and going. We are further along in elementary with intentional digital tools from spring feedback. They are a face to face model which is more consistent with what traditional school looks like, though a different pedagogy that you detach in a different physically distanced space. At secondary we are talking about the catch and release, flipped, project based, theme-oriented work. It's a paradigm shift and work is different so it's just getting started and Heather doesn't want one of the coordinators to share too soon as they are just brainstorming possibilities and then perhaps get off track.

We are working through the ever-growing likelihood of full distance – Dr. Lutz saying it's not looking good, so we have an interest in making sure teachers have as much support as possible.

Question – Do we know when the decision will be made?

- Don't know, it's the governor's decision and the health district's decision. A month ago Heather would've said we will be face to face in late September but now, not sure where we will be, or even where we will be in a few weeks with the ever changing information.
- Heather's hope is that this group continues to be a sounding board as the work continues and models and answers go in place, to make sure the next steps of the process are right. We are all in agreement about starting the year intentionally, regardless of the environment, to make sure we are providing more meaningful experiences for students.

Question – Laura T. – there was a subcommittee that worked on the distance learning piece – was that committee just focused on the subgroup of folks that wanted a full distance program? Will this group have discussions about the full remote model - district wide?

- In full transparency Heather took lots of conversations from this group and took the ideas around what it would look like – hard to make a decision about just A/B without a full distance model and it's from this group's

dialogue, that the full remote model was formulated. We realize this group hasn't seen the proposal, but it was rooted from conversations with this group.

- Laura wanted it on the groups radar there could be additional discussion about what that might look like if needed.
- The key take aways: Scott's model had a lot of influence, a shorter instructional time and lots of time for creation and connection to families and other teachers. Big picture overview without details about what we took from the conversation. We went down the road a little and not calling it full distance learning, it was around a hybrid, blended learning digital tools, SEL, so now what does that mean full distance for Math and Josh as the coordinator as he works and creates supports.
- Laura - This group has a lot of broad representation and creative ideas – so just wanted those to be considered.
- We took into consideration master scheduling so 1st period is 1st period whether in person on virtual, the time might be different or frequency but ability to move in and out should be seamless.

Question - Would we have 10 periods, pre prepared for A/B to that extent?

- We've thought through workload for the full distance model

Heather wants to be cautious but added that overall the conversation with the Association is fantastic, environment is very cooperative in the negotiations – how do we build the best experience possible for students of Spokane, we know if teachers aren't happy and we know if students aren't happy. Pleased with conversation and tone and super optimistic that we will come up with models that checks everyone's box given the circumstances we are in. Not all of everyone's boxes but some.

Next Steps/Follow Up: When is the right time to come back to this group? – We provided the same share outs at the elementary subgroup meeting today. Heather is thinking that setting a meeting 2 weeks from now would be good but holding next week should we be in a place with new info to share that we wouldn't want to wait. If that were the case, we would meet next week. The group recommendation was to hold next Tuesday as a meeting possibility should we have details to share but otherwise meet in 2 weeks.

Next Meeting: August 4, 2020 or July 28, 2020 if new info needs to be shared sooner than August 4.