

## **Safe School Reopening Task Force Safety and Operations Committee**

July 8, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Mark Anderson, Gwen Harris, Matt Truitt, John O'Dell, Marybeth Smith, Becky Doughty, Lisa White, Phil Wright, Daniel Robertson, Brad Cass, Amber Juliano, Garrett Berdan, Alex Navarrete, Sabre Dahl, Shawn Jordan, Salina Geiger, and Becky Ramsey

Dr. Anderson opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

### **Limits on students/Alternating schedules/Proper Spacing/distancing:**

Dr. Anderson shared the recommendations from the Safety and Operations group with the other relevant sub-committees:

- The Elementary Educational Model sub-committee affirmed our recommendation to have all elementary students in school every day.
- Based on the space analysis conducted by our Facilities staff, most elementary classrooms will hold 21 students. Art, science, music, and other large rooms could be used as regular classrooms.
- With one model, elementary specialists would act as classroom teachers to cover the additional staff needs with more classrooms.
- Another option is to have more combination classrooms to bring each room to 21 students.
- By having multiples combo classes, it might be possible to keep the school day hours the same and still give teachers their regular prep time.
- The Secondary Education Model group supports an A/B alternating schedule where half the students would attend Mon/Wed and every other Friday, and the other half attend Tues/Thurs and every other Friday or something similar.

Phil Wright reported:

- His group began focusing on possible cafeteria usage.
- He also worked with Heather Richardson (ELD) and Becky Ramsey (Special Education) to identify areas for small group instruction with students who need a space to meet.
- It appears that cafeterias will need to be used as 'flex-space' or 'break-out' spaces to accommodate these groups.
- Phil has developed scenarios to create several 'flex spaces' or 'break-out' spaces for this type of instruction.
- This is another confirmation we need to have elementary students eat in classrooms.
- Distancing: He reiterated the need to mark floors in key locations to guide social distancing such as lineup areas, hallways, and restrooms. These could be uncontrollable points of exposure. Phil will be working with principals to provide guidance on the location of such markers for building custodians to assist in placement.
- Distancing: Phil asked about the possibility of closing some of the restrooms at the secondary level so there are fewer areas to monitor OR posting signs at the restroom entrances stating the maximum occupancy, requiring students to self-monitor.
- Mark asked Becky Ramsey to clarify if all areas need to be monitored for the 6' rule.
- It was noted some teachers have begun setting up their classrooms with their own interpretation of proper spacing/distancing, sometimes hanging shower curtains from the ceiling to divide the space. These could be a fire hazard if they block fire sprinklers and violate fire codes.

- Phil said their expectation is that most teachers will set up their own rooms, with assistance from building custodial staff, using the mock-ups created by this team.
- There was discussion around teachers bringing in personal furniture like sofas or bean bag chairs for their classrooms and the concern for adequately sanitizing these items and the potential liability for the District to ensure distancing with so many pieces of furniture.
- Mark will bring these concerns to the Steering Committee and ask for uniform communication to all classroom teachers detailing the acceptable set-up standard demonstrated by Phil's team. The team is hoping that SEA will support these directives as they also communicate with teaching staff.
- Secondary level concerns include protocol for band, choir, fitness classes, locker rooms. OSPI stated they will be giving more detailed information covering these issues.
- Option: students get their lunch and go to their next period and eat in that classroom.
- Option: students get their lunch and eat in hallways with 6' markers placed on the floor.
- Garrett suggested having some students eat in the cafeteria and some taking their meal to a classroom. This would also increase demand on custodial staff to clean and sanitize both areas.
- All options require supervision to ensure proper distancing which needs to be discussed with the Spokane Education Association.
- Garrett is meeting with staff at NC to discuss the flow and seating possibilities in their space. Again, he said they will most likely serve a grab-and-go style lunch.
- Marybeth also made the point that we need to figure out how to get lunches for all students, even on the days they are not at school.

#### Miscellaneous comments:

- Spacing and Line-up process: Matt gave the example of having some classrooms go to recess before lunch and then have students with cold lunches line up at one door and go straight to their classroom to eat and students needing a school lunch line up at another door to get their lunch which would reduce cross traffic.
- He recognized any protocol requires training students to properly move from marker to marker.
- Supervision/Duty Free Lunch/Prep Times: Matt Beal shared their solution was to give students an extra-long recess while teachers have their own lunch break and some prep time.
- Secondary level: Marybeth and John suggested a type of block schedule that allows teachers their prep time as well as providing supervision before school, at lunches, and passing periods:
  - Secondary students go to school two days a week, i.e. Group A goes Monday and Thursday, Group B goes Tuesday and Friday with no classes on Wednesdays.
  - Teachers would be assigned supervision before school, during lunch, and during passing times and have Wednesdays for their prep, PD, and sanitizing.
  - John shared a benefit of a block schedule like this with longer periods allows for deeper interaction with students.
  - Mark suggested sharing that concept with Heather Bybee in Instructional Programs.

#### **Health and safety requirements /PPE:**

Dr. Anderson reviewed:

- OSPI is holding to their guidance that students must be 6' apart.
- Teachers may wear face shields only when instructing
- Paraprofessionals and other staff working closely with students may wear face shields

- He asked: if two staff members work in one large workspace/room/office and they sit 10-12' apart and asked if they need to wear masks when they are both in the area? Becky says, technically yes.
- If only one person is in the room, they do not need to wear a mask.

**Screening:** Becky said they continue to discuss the best options to accomplish the screening mandated by OSPI and hope to receive additional direction from the Department of Health.

- Their consensus was that the screening questions reveal potential health concerns more accurately than taking temperatures, but taking temperatures is still required.
- They are working with Clay Gehring and ITSC to find the best way to give families access to pre-screen their students every morning before school. Last week some options were discussed such as using the existing health program, CareDocs, possibly programming something directly thru each school's web page, or buying an Ap to use, the most expensive option.
- Each student needs to be screened each day, whether at home or when they get to school.
- Becky said they will create a clear step by step process for staff to ensure students are screened, whether at home or at school.

### **Sanitation/Cleaning:**

- Alex provided basic guidelines that students and staff should follow such as washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds as often as possible and when that is not available, they should use hand sanitizer.
- He listed options for disinfecting classrooms suggesting teachers play a role in the task as well as bringing custodial staffing back to the level of a couple of years ago so high touch surfaces can be disinfected two or three times a day during school hours. Currently, he does not recommend assigning younger children to do the disinfecting.
- Mark asked about using a rotation method (red dot/blue dot) for seating secondary students from one period to the next. If the red dot chair/desk is empty one period and sprayed with disinfectant, is that enough time to be completely sanitized and used again the next period? Alex or Becky will need to investigate further.

**Student transportation:** Mark stated Salliejo is waiting for the final model to be selected to work on transportation proposals.

### **Required education/training:**

- Sabre is compiling a complete list of educational/training requirements
- There was discussion on what method will be used to train all staff: It was suggested that Principals and supervisory staff be trained, and they would train their staff.
- Marybeth suggested SPS medical professional create modules for training which may give staff more confidence in it.
- Shawn Jordan expressed concern that we ensure coaches and other activity leaders are also properly trained in Covid-19 related protocol.
- Sabre stated that all categories of staff must be trained in the specifics related to their position: Everyone has a general knowledge, with a different emphasis to specific groups: Teachers, coaches, secretaries, etc.
- Sabre's group is brainstorming ways to train students and families of sanitation expectations.
- They will create a draft and decide the most effective way/s to get the information out.
- We must also have a system to document the training everyone receives.

**Accommodations for High Risk Staff:** Sabre stated they will address individual requests as they arise.

Mark concluded the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and encouraged each team to meet again before our next meeting.