

Safe School Reopening Task Force Leadership Steering Committee
Aug. 6, 2-3 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Anderson, Dr. Bob Lutz, Kristy Mylroie, Megan Read, Tricia Kannberg, Katie Kenlein, Shawn Jordan, Dawn Sidell, Craig Numata, Phil Wright, Cindy Coleman, Becky Doughty, Salliejo Evers, Heather Bybee, Jennifer Keck, Oscar Harris, Gwen Harris, Becky Ramsey, Rebecca Powell, Jeremy Shay. Not in attendance: Adam Swinyard, Jerrall Haynes, Jeremy Ochse, Steve Fisk, Brad Read, Stephanie Busch, Michelle Jenner.

Discussion: Dr. Mark Anderson welcomed everyone and reminded them of the daily work that has been happening since June, including discussions with the Spokane Education Association, to create the SPS Reopening Plan. It is a 10,000-foot view of how school will happen depending on whether buildings are closed or open.

SPS has a consistent practice of following guidance from health officials. The State Department and Health and the Spokane Regional Health Department recently outlined specific thresholds, based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, for when it is considered high, moderate or low risk to return to in-person learning in school buildings. Currently, Spokane is considered to be in the high-risk category. Dr. Bob Lutz talked about his recent recommendations to return to a hybrid model of in-person learning when the cases fall below n 25 cases per 100,000. Spokane has more than 200 cases per 100,000 at this time. It was not an easy recommendation to make, but one that is necessary, he said, adding that if schools returned to in-person learning, that number would surely increase. He appreciates that SPS is approaching its reopening plan in a calibrated fashion. Dr. Lutz also encouraged SPS to think about creative ways to safely provide in-person learning and services to those students who need it the most.

Dr. Anderson walked through the SPS reopening plan, which was to be emailed to all families and staff that evening. The plan provides a basic overview of how school will function depending on whether school buildings are open or if they are closed. It pulls together the recommendations and findings from each of the Safe Start Reopening Task Force subcommittees: Safety & Operations, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Technology, Special Education, English Language Development, Athletics & Extracurricular Activities, Intervention Services, and Full Distance Learning Options.

Dr. Anderson said the hope is to finish the Memorandum of Understanding with SEA by next Wednesday and then submit the plan to OSPI. Still under discussion is the school year calendar, including the first day of school. It is important to have a strong start and to be sure staff, students and families have the tools and training needed for a successful school year.

A meeting is planned for next week after the reopening plan is approved. Several clarifying questions were asked about:

*When SPS could move into a hybrid model of learning (probably not until after the first of the new year, at the earliest)

*What happens to the sports seasons if we are still categorized as high risk at the end of December? (Maybe we couldn't launch into season 2)

*Self reporting temperatures when we are able to return to in-person learning?

We need to trust people to understand the importance of helping to ensure the safety of community members, and be honest in their reporting.

*Textbook pick up?

Plans are being worked out for how to do that.

Dr. Anderson concluded the meeting at 2:55 p.m.