

Safe School Reopening Task Force
Safety and Operations Committee Minutes

March 17, 2021 at 1:01 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Anderson, Andee Atwood, Brad Cass, Salliejo Evers, Gwen Harris, Jodi Harmon, Oscar Harris, Jason Leslie, Alex Navarrete, Debbie Oakley, John O'Dell, Carol Pederson, Sarah Pooler, Clint Price, Heather Richardson, Jeremy Shay-SEA, Marybeth Smith, Stephanie Splater, Matt Truitt, Lisa White, Nancy Williams, Doug Wordell, and Phil Wright

1. School In-Person Instruction – Safety Protocol Update (How's It Going)

- Reports from secondary schools have been very positive: health check morning entrance and grab and go breakfast has gone quickly and smoothly.
- Marybeth reported there was one person with a possible exposure, but due to the reporting system and safety protocols, there was no need to quarantine at any time. Staff and students report being confident in the systems in place for their protection.
- Some concern was raised regarding wearing masks at lunch and administrators have reiterated the District is following health department protocols.
- Meal counts are lower than normal. Some kids have taken meals but haven't eaten them because they are uncomfortable eating in front of others. Administrators will continue to encourage students and help them adjust to the unique lunchroom protocols.

2. Volunteers in Schools

- Volunteer agencies and organizations are requesting to resume their presence in schools. Oscar and Sandra are developing protocols and training for volunteers and will bring it to the Committee to review next week. They will cover the same protocols given to staff and students to ensure continuity and continued safety in buildings. We will begin bringing volunteers back after spring break, after they complete district safety training.

3. Small Group After School Meetings

- We have received requests from staff to start holding after-school group activities with students and families. Current guidelines do not allow for large gatherings, so Doug and Debbie have worked creatively with schools to create fun virtual events. Future inquiries can be directed to either of them or school directors for help planning a fun event that is not in the building.

4. Staff Vaccine Update

- Health Services is continuing to offer vaccination clinics. They are working with Human Resources to ensure all staff know about their ability to receive the vaccine. Many staff have reported they already received their vaccine from somewhere else, but SPS has administered around 2000 vaccinations.

5. Update on Music Guidelines

- The 9' distance for choir and band remains the same but The Health Department

has revised or clarified the standard for cohorts. They can still have no more than 15 students, but they now allow more than one cohort in a room if the space is large enough for proper distancing. There must also be a barrier between cohorts to define the area – even a simple cone dividing cohorts. As weather permits, band and choir can meet outside in groups up to 50 with proper distancing. Carol will confirm this information with Becky Doughty and/or Mark Springer with the Health Department.

- When we move to phase 3, possibly March 22nd, the State will provide new detailed standards.

6. Other

- Cleaning/Disinfecting/Custodians: Custodians have been very pleased with the cleanliness of classrooms and lunchrooms after meals. Students are being very responsible to keep their area clean which helps custodians with their workload.
- Outside groups using SPS facilities: Phil says we have begun scheduling outside groups to use our buildings/fields after spring break. Groups are required to provide their own safety protocols and must also follow the protocols we have established. Event Services will provide principals with notification of outside user groups and safety protocols to pass along to staff whose spaces may be used.
- Concerns reported to SEA from staff:
 - Some elementary staff say it is very time consuming to process student health checks that haven't been done from home before school.
 - Some elementary staff are concerned that custodians sometimes clean their classrooms while they are doing their prep.
 - Some staff are concerned about safety when outside groups begin using our sites. We will communicate with principals regarding our safety training requirements for groups to assure them of continued safety and health. Outside groups will use their own equipment so it won't interfere with our sanitized equipment. As an extra measure, the night custodian can follow-up after usage by cleaning high touch areas.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is considering a new 3' distancing between classroom desks instead of 6'. This would bring classrooms close to full occupancy and attendance every day, K-12. There was some concern from custodial staff about the time it would take to set-up and place new markers in every classroom. Jeremy (SEA), on behalf of members, voiced concern about implementing yet another change this school year after everyone has adapted to so many changes already.
- Spring events: school administrators have asked about holding in-person events like prom and graduation ceremonies. Shawn has told high school principals they will have discussions after spring break and decisions will be made using current health guidelines. Some districts and universities have already announced they will hold drive-thru graduations in place of their normal large gatherings. Shawn, Salliejo, Phil, and Lisa will research what is being done throughout the community and will bring their recommendation to the Committee.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 24th at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.