

Safe School Reopening Task Force
Safety and Operations Committee Minutes

October 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Anderson opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Anderson, Andee Attwood, Brad Cass, Sabre Dahl, Becky Doughty, Salliejo Evers, Salina Geiger, Gwen Harris, Shawn Jordan, Alex Navarrete, John O'Dell, Clint Price, Becky Ramsey, Heather Richardson, Daniel Robertson, Marybeth Smith, Stephanie Splater, Matt Truitt, Lisa White, Nancy Williams, Doug Wordell, Phil Wright, and Sonya Chouinard

Mark announced the Administration will be presenting a plan to phase in 1st grade students to in-person learning to the School Board tonight. This approach, with the approval of Dr. Lutz, because national and local statistics, are showing very low transmission in younger kids within schools, and our District transmission has been extremely low with only one case originating in a school. SPS will again have safety webinars with protocols for staff and families to follow before 1st graders return. The webinars will also address the requirement for health checks each day with instructions to follow.

Mark will include an updated checklist in his email to principals addressing some unique issues as 1st graders return to buildings. One thing affected by 1st grade returning is recess schedules, having more students to coordinate in keeping with social distancing and staying in classroom cohorts.

Other discussion included:

- **Specialists:** a request was made to allow students to sit on the floor during specialists instead of arranging chairs for social distancing (particularly music). The conclusion was, it would be impossible to sanitize carpets to the standard necessary with COVID and guidance to teachers will reflect that information. Teachers will clean the chairs between classes. Leadership has also observed that classrooms with students in chairs are more consistent with social distancing and student learning.
- **Adequate chairs/desks/tables:** Phil will coordinate with the custodial team to make sure classrooms have the right furniture to accommodate for socially distanced set-ups.
- **Secondary small group instruction:** Dr Lutz is supportive of bringing back secondary students in groups of five or under for specific topics that can't be done virtually and/or for students needing in-person support. There are many complicated logistics to work out including transportation and cross exposure with cohorts to mention a couple. Shawn Jordan, Clint Price, John O'Dell, and Marybeth Smith will work to identify programs and students this could work for and create a plan and protocol to implement within safety guidelines. Salliejo mentioned that Durham's schedule/resources are almost at capacity, but she will research any options they can offer.

- **Learning Centers:** The concept of small group learning centers aligns with Dr. Lutz' concept of phasing in small groups of students. There is a high need for in-person support for secondary students to be successful. Learning Center need to be in central locations for student access, possibly at high schools for all feeder schools to utilize.
- **Transportation:** Lisa White gave examples of opportunities to access CARES dollars to support students and families. There may be grants available to cover transportation or other needs to implement a program like learning centers.
- **PPE:** SPS has received large quantities of PPE through the CARES Act. The warehouse needs secure spaces to store and distribute them when needed. Alex asked if high schools have room to store the PPE since there aren't many students in-person yet. They would act as a central hub for feeder schools as they need supplies. Alex is working through the logistics with Accounting to ensure we're following all requirements with proper documentation.
- **Laptops:** We will need a protocol for students returning to buildings and bringing the laptops they've had at home for several months. The thought for 1st graders returning in a couple of weeks is, they should leave them at home to use on their 'at home' days which will also reduce spreading germs. The future standard for returning laptops will probably be to isolate them for a period of time and rotate them back in when determined safe.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 1:55 and announced we will meet again next Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.