

Safe School Reopening Task Force
Safety and Operations Committee

June 24, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Anderson, Gwen Harris, Jennifer Keck, Shawn Jordan, Matt Truitt, John O'Dell, Marybeth Smith, Salliejo Evers, Becky Doughty, Sabre Dahl, Andee Atwood, Lisa White, Phil Wright, Daniel Robertson, Brad Cass, Walter Long, Selina Geiger, Amber Juliano, Garrett Berdan, and Alex Navarrete

Dr. Anderson opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and reminded the committee that our task is to make recommendations first to the Steering Committee, then they will be work with SEA on an MOU before being submitted to the Board for approval and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Office (OSPI).

Limits on students/classroom spacing and alternating schedules:

- The State has clarified the 6' distance rule: It is 6' between students' heads, not their desks. They recognize that both kids and teachers move around in classrooms, but when they are stationary, they need to remain 6' apart.
- Elementary: Mark stated they are leaning toward trying to have elementary students meeting in-buildings every day to provide the support needed for foundational early learning.
- Elementary: Phil, Adam, and Craig Numata are looking at floor plans and working on possible templates showing options for classroom set-up with adequate spacing.
 - Phil stated a standard elementary classroom is 24' x 36' which allows a maximum of 21 students per room. There are exceptions with some smaller classrooms, and Portables.
 - They will do a mock-up of classrooms and address the more challenging ones. Markers will be placed to signify where desks must be placed so they can easily be returned to their proper spot.
 - Matt asked about classroom set-up for primary grades that use tables not desks. Phil will work on layout for that scenario also.
 - This assumes that all unessential furniture is removed from classrooms. Phil and his team are looking for storage options available for District owned unessential furniture.
 - This model utilizes Music, Art, and Science rooms as regular classrooms in order to house all students and will be staffed by Specialists.
 - The gym will still be used for Fitness and Health classes.
 - Teacher Prep times will be affected and will be addressed with the SEA.
 - Matt estimated elementary lunch periods will take 3 hours. He suggested primary grades eat in the cafeteria and higher grades eat in classrooms and have students clean and sanitize afterwards.
 - Matt suggested "grab-n-go" breakfasts and there was discussion of the logistics of getting the food to the classrooms.
 - Concern was voiced about handling the fruits and vegetables provided by the "fruit and veggie" grant in schools that have it. Matt suggested having baskets prepared in advance and teachers can pick them up at the start of every day and serve it in the classroom.

- Becky and Doug Wordell asked OSPI if we could use plexiglass to separate students in lunchrooms to allow more seating and still have proper distancing. They will again check with the County Health Department.
- Garrett is meeting with the Nutrition Services team in the coming weeks to discuss cafeteria lay-out so he will bring these comments and suggestions to the team.
- Secondary Schools: The current thought is, they will use an A/B schedule with students attending on alternate days to accommodate for higher enrollment in secondary schools.
 - Middle and High Schoolers are better able to self-direct and succeed at on-line learning.
 - MaryBeth stated, even with half the students in the building they will still need to have four or five lunch periods to get all students thru with proper spacing.
 - Because of the alternating schedules, Phil hasn't done layouts for secondary classrooms.
 - Even with half the student population each day, it will still require removing unessential furniture from the building. A tracking and labeling system will be developed to ensure everything is returned to the proper location.

Health and safety requirements team/PPE:

- This week, the State clarified their requirement for students wearing face masks – they are required beginning at age 5 and up unless there are health conditions.
- Dept of Health said face shields can be used to accommodate for student health conditions.
- Teachers may wear face shields when instructing in front of the class but must wear a mask when they move around the classroom and talk with students.
- Alex has ordered two models of face shields to consider and will place a larger order when they decide which one will be used.
- They recommend providing 2 masks (with instructions for cleaning) for each staff member.
- They recommend asking students to provide their own masks, but schools will keep a supply of disposable masks in case they forget or for any other extenuating circumstances.
- **Health Screening:** Becky's team came up with their "worst case scenario" for doing the required health screenings before school every day following CDC/OSPI guidelines. They used L.C. as a model, being the most challenging school, and they will continue to brainstorm ways to improve.
 - They estimate it will take one minute to screen each student, which would take 2 hours for LC to get half of their students in the building (half due to alternating schedules)
 - This is using 4 entrances with 4 screeners at each entrance.
 - They need to address who will staff the entrances.
 - They may be able to post signs outside listing the health questions so students are ready with their answers in hopes of speeding up the screening time.
 - Craig Numata found a program where families can screen students at home each morning and the information can be accessed by the appropriate staff at schools.
 - They are researching the cost and working out the logistics if it's implemented. A few concerns were voiced about using it; confidentiality, equity in accessing the technology, singling out students without that access.

SANITATION/CLEANING:

- The team recommends elementary students keep personal belongings at/beside their desks.
- Mark suggested providing containers to hold small student belongings: pencils, glue, etc.
- Alex priced out pencil boxes, pouches and zip lock bags – zip-lock bags are the most economical.
- They recommend MS/HS students have one person per locker and encourage students to keep as few personal belonging at school as possible.
- Alex is ordering supplies (crayons, glue sticks, etc.) in quantities so students don't have to share.
- They propose MS/HS students disinfect community lab/math/science materials, equipment and tables daily.
- Mark asked the team to develop a protocol for regularly disinfecting areas and items in elementary schools, taking into consideration: parental concerns for young children handling cleaning agents, cleaning taking up teaching time; teaching staff with sensitivities to chemicals; SEA Bargained tasks for teaching staff; frequency of disinfecting; and adequate custodial staffing.
- Mark stated they intend to restore custodial staffing to the level before the custodial cuts were made to help accommodate for the demand.
- Phil believes disinfecting at night is adequate and shouldn't need to be repeated in the morning.
- Phil suggested setting up a "cleaning center" for teachers to pick up cleaning supplies each morning and return containers at the end of the day. This will need to be bargained with SEA.
- Lisa asked about the possibility of these jobs being done by staff at high risk that don't want or can't have close contact with students. This will be addressed by the HR team and SEA as they negotiate "meaningful work" as it relates to the ADA.

Student transportation:

- Salliejo said they are crunching numbers to see how much it would help to increase the 'walk area' to 1.5 miles. That would involve reassessing the hazards, crossing areas, and other issues, but they are evaluating it as an option.
- Durham says they can't bus kids during phase 2, but have to wait until we are in phase 3. And as stated last week, they can't use plexiglass to separate students on the bus. They are currently researching their cleaning requirements to develop a protocol.
- Salliejo shared that SPS has a contract with 'Hop-Skip Cars', an Uber-like transportation business. They *are* able to transport in Phase 2, but are limited to 1 or 2 students, or one family per ride, and also need to disinfect between trips. She said they are allowed to use plexiglass to divide students from the driver.
- Salliejo asked if the alternating secondary school A/B schedule also includes staggered times to allow adequate time for travel and extra cleaning on buses.

Accommodations for staff with high risk:

- Sabre and HR are developing resources to post on the website with information on ADA accommodations for staff and students, as well as a FAQ section.
- They are anticipating accommodation requests that could include Leaves of Absences or alternate work assignments.
- The availability of alternate work assignments depends on the number of requests, and the duties of specific jobs. Distance learning could be an option for some staff.

- Mark stated the District announced it is offering another early retirement incentive which could help some staff in this difficult position.

Mark stated we will meet next week before the Holiday weekend and asked each group to meet beforehand to develop and refine ideas to bring to that meeting.

Mark adjourned the meeting promptly at 2:02 p.m.