

Safe School Reopening Task Force
Safety and Operations Committee

July 1, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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

Dr. Anderson opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed Becky Ramsey, Director of Special Education. Many Special Education issues correspond and are affected by the recommendations made by Safety and Operations subcommittee, so Becky requested to participate and give input as needed.

Mark reminded committee members of the need to develop recommendations in each of assigned area to present to the Steering Committee. There are many areas that cross-over between our subcommittee and other sub-committees including, school day schedules and children with special needs.

Mark referenced an article by the National Pediatric Association giving strong support for getting students back in school buildings to support their mental health and academic growth. He reported the District has not received any new updates from the Department of Health or other health officials, and they are holding firm to their requirements of using masks, attaining proper distancing and encouraging frequent handwashing. As mentioned last week, they did approve teachers and certain students to use face shields at specific times.

Limits on students/Alternating schedules and Classroom spacing:

- Phil Wright showed pictures of the test classrooms they set up at a few different schools to show possible options to consider accomplishing the desired goal of having all elementary students in school buildings every day.
- **Elementary schools:** The goal of having 21 students per classroom is feasible in most buildings and classrooms. The furniture may be comprised of a mixture of tables and desks which may have to come from other buildings, unused spaces, etc.
 - Phil's team is attempting to set up three classrooms in each elementary school to give staff confidence that appropriate classroom set-up and spacing is feasible. The scenarios have been challenging, but successful.
 - They will put sturdy, semi-permanent markers where each desk/table must remain.
 - Becky Ramsey asked that Phil give her some pointers for the special needs classrooms.
 - The Elementary model will most likely apply to grades K-6th, but there was a suggestion that 6th grade move to middle school to help accommodate elementary space demands.
 - To accomplish the daily elementary model with the spacing requirements and available staffing, the number of combo classes would likely go from around 40 in the past to around 150 combo classrooms.
- **Secondary Schools:** Still recommending an A/B schedule where students alternate days they attend so only half of the students will be in the building each day.
 - In addition to having half the student population each day, it was suggested using different colored dots on chairs where one period sits on one color of dots and the next period sits on the alternate color of dots, thus allowing time between usage in hopes of decreasing exposure levels.
- **Lunch Periods:** The team from Nutrition Services met and after careful evaluation determined that the most efficient approach for meals at the elementary level is to have students eat in their classrooms.
 - The custodial concerns voiced earlier regarding classroom clean-up were addressed by pointing out, the time they would normally spend setting up, cleaning, and tearing down the tables in the cafeteria would then be used for the clean-up needed in classrooms.

- Students can be taught how to clean their area adequately and as they practice they will get better.
- Nutrition Services is designing lunch menus that aren't too messy that will have all the components in a sack lunch. They will be able to choose the type of milk they prefer.
- Phil suggested they look at a similar approach for secondary meals.
- Garrett Berdan will continue to talk with John O'Dell and Marybeth Smith about the logistics of secondary lunch periods in hopes of reducing the original estimate of needing 5 lunch periods.
- The issue of providing teachers with a "duty-free" lunch break still needs to be resolved – Marybeth commented that many teachers use their lunch as an extra prep period.
- In the past they have offered a stipend to teachers for supervising students during lunch.
- Students at L.C. have always eaten their lunches in hallways, but now they would need to place markers 6' apart to assure proper distance, and there would still need to be staff to monitor and enforce distancing. The consensus was that it would be doable.
- Mark suggested that Nutrition Services consult Matt Beal, Principal of Mullan Road Elementary for ideas on efficient processes that he has seen in large schools and middle schools with students eating in classrooms.
- A solution for restroom usage still needs to be developed.

Health and safety requirements /PPE:

- Becky Doughty has been working on the entry screening process and was able to make some progress, but resolved that a perfect system is not attainable, so they are changing their focus to doing the best they can.
- At-Home App and/or program: She is waiting on a quote from the screening App Craig Numata suggested. Mark suggested if this program is expensive to ask Budget and Accounting to research the possibility of using bond dollars for this type of technology.
- Another idea Becky had was for each school's homepage to have a link for parents to answer the screening questions – she tested it and was able to answer everything in 7 minutes.
- ITSC could create the links and it would be user friendly with no cost to implement. It would also eliminate concerns about all kids/families having access to the technology.
- Older students could submit their own screening from home, or teachers can incorporate that process at the start of class each morning. It is a matter of training students, families, and/or teachers on the new process.
- A possible process is to have students open their computer first thing each morning and teachers will make sure they have done the screening. If the results have any red flags, the student will then report to the health room for further investigation.
- We could also use CareDocs, the program currently used to manage student health issues.
- After school programs and activities: at elementary level, if a student had an acceptable screening in the morning, that would suffice for going to after school activities and Express child care.
- At the secondary level where students go to school on alternate days: ALL students would be screened before their after school activities to make sure everyone has been screened – to compensate for some students not being at school that day for the morning screening.
- Becky's goal is to have a planned protocol and give their best effort from there.
- Becky has a request into the Spokane County Health Department to have the Department of Health approve using plexiglass dividers in classrooms to allow for more students per classroom.
- Phil was uncertain there would be an adequate supply of the materials available, or that they would have the staffing install everything. He suggested it might be possible in a few troubled sites. Phil says that would be risky – he doesn't know if the materials will even be available with the high demand everywhere. Some classrooms might need it but only at sites with problems distancing. It would also increase the number of surfaces to be disinfected by custodial staff each day.

- **PPE:** Alex is ordering masks for each staff member with instructions for cleaning, disposable masks for students in case they forget, disposable gloves, plexiglass shields for customer counters; face shields for teachers, nurses, cafeteria staff, and certain students. He will also order surgical gowns and KN95 masks for nurses and other staff with a high risk of exposure, thermometers, hand sanitizer, disinfectant cleaners. It's possible we could receive FEMA reimbursement for some of these expenses.

Sanitation/Cleaning:

- It is possible to train students to clean their desks at the end of each day, and custodians deep clean at the end of the week. If students have sensitivities to cleaners or if there is parental concern, they would be excused from this activity.
- There are many options for all these supplies with a wide range of cost. Mark asked Alex to create a proposal with a few options, detailing "if we buy this item for this many people, it will cost \$\$." This will give firm information to present to the steering committee to make recommendations to the Steering Committee and eventually the School Board.

Student transportation:

- Mark confirmed that Salliejo Evers is waiting for a decision on school schedules to further investigate transportation options.

Required education:

- Becky and Salliejo have been working with Brian Murray and Sabre Dahl in HR for training models for staff and students. Sabre will have a list of who needs the education.
- Mark asked about the timing of training staff. Sabre is recommending that staff are all trained on the first day they report back to work. Everyone will sign to verify their training.

Mark asked if it would be possible for each group to have their final recommendations with options ready by 7/15/2020 and explained the timing and chain of approval needed to be able to start school on time.

Mark concluded the meeting at 2:01 p.m. and encouraged each team to meet again before the next meeting on July 8 meeting.