

Safe School Reopening Task Force  
Safety and Operations Committee

July 15, 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, Sabre Dahl, Andee Atwood, Lisa White, Daniel Robertson, Brad Cass, Walter Long, Selina Gieger, Amber Juliano, Theresa Meyer, Garratt Berdan, and Alex Navarrete

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

- Dr. Anderson stated he will take the recommendations from this team to the Steering Committee which has begun discussions with Spokane Education Association to develop an MOU for the safe school re-opening plan.
- He stated the OSPI guidelines remain the same as before.
- He shared that Becky Doughty is working with SRHD, to hold Covid-19 testing at some of our schools, therefore she is not participating in today's meeting.

**Limits on students/Classroom spacing and alternating schedules:**

- Phil and the custodial team are still in the process of setting up model classrooms for teachers to use as a guide to accomplish appropriate distancing. Their goal is to have at least one model at each school.
- With Middle and High Schools rotating A/B schedules, classrooms can keep a standard set-up and rotate desk usage from one period to the next (red dot/blue dot) and sanitizing in-between.
- Kimberly Stretch, the principal at Libby Center, would like the Odyssey program with students in grades 4 thru 8 to have an alternating schedule like secondary schools will have.
- Mark shared a suggestion by the Elementary Model sub-group.
  - This model has grades K-4 attending every day with 17 to 20 students per classroom.
  - Grades 5 and 6 would have an alternating schedule similar to secondary.
  - This model has several advantages including:
    - Classroom is set-up for full capacity with students in assigned desks and only having students in every-other desk each day.
    - It will free up Specialists to teach in their area of expertise instead of becoming classroom teachers.
    - It would reduce custodial set-up and sanitizing time.
    - It would also allow for the same bell schedule and bussing schedule.
- John O'Dell shared that middle school lunchrooms are very different from one school to the next and will require thought and planning to customize set-up in each school.
- Phil thought he could provide different options showing maximum lunchroom capacity in each school and let them decide the set-up that works best for them. It will be recommended that each school would be responsible to implement and monitor the set-up and capacity.
- The thinking is still the need for grab and go lunches to eat in other areas as well as multiple lunch periods.
- A proposal was presented for serving elementary lunches that also provides teachers with their lunch period:
  - There was concern about the time it would take to get all students, properly distanced and supervised, to the cafeteria to pick up their grab and go lunches.
  - Students would "order" their preferred lunch choice in the mornings and Nutrition Services staff would bag the lunches accordingly with choice A and B.
  - Nutrition Services staff and noon aid staff will deliver bag lunches to rooms
  - Teachers will help students until the noon aid staff are free to supervise their classroom, at which time teachers will have their lunch period.
  - Noon aid staff can supervise lunches in two classrooms by adjoining rooms or roaming between two rooms.
  - Custodians will place large trash cans outside classrooms to dispose of lunch trash.

- They will then supervise the classrooms as they go outside to recess or have indoor recess, depending on the rotating schedule.
- With alternating lunch schedules, you can accomplish this with two supervisors inside and two supervisors outside.
- Breakfast could be served and supervised in a similar manner.
- Staff Rooms: a typical staff room will hold an average of 8 people at a time with appropriate social distancing.

### **Health and safety requirements/Cleaning/PPE team:**

- **Screening:** Becky Doughty is working with our ITSC department to develop a custom App through our website with the required health screening questions so families can screen students before school each morning. The information will be sent to the schools to verify the student can attend school and to allow follow-up if there are health concerns. If anyone reports a fever of 100 degrees or above, they will be asked to stay home.
  - If students have not been screened, they will be called out of class to be screened.
  - Becky will create a detailed protocol for staff to follow for health screening and reporting.
  - Salliejo Evers shared there will be a similar system to ensure staff are screened each day.
  - The staff on this committee believe most families will want to screen their students at home so they are not pulled out of class to do it.
  - Shawn Jordan asked if the screening results can/will be sorted in a way that is useful for secondary schools with an A/B rotation schedule and for after school activities/sports once they are allowed in Phase 3 and 4.
  - The screening reports will most likely be handled by the Attendance Secretary at the elementary level because they don't have full-time nurses. They will follow-up on health concerns and screen students that were not screened at home. They could then provide coaches and activity leaders with the appropriate information.
- **Cleaning/Disinfecting:** Alex Navarrete submitted their Task Force recommendation for cleaning and disinfecting addressing the areas specified in the OSPI Guidelines.
  - It was recommended providing a cart for classrooms each day containing appropriate cleaning supplies with instructions for use and the recommended frequency.
  - All the cleaning products properly disinfect by spraying the surface and letting it dry and does not require you to wipe down the surface.
  - The stronger cleaners work faster but can be considered a hazardous or flammable material in large volumes which require special storage.
  - It is recommended teachers implement the cleaning protocol for their classroom.
  - Alex has worked with Greg Trepus to provide ITSC with a product to disinfect computers and keyboards. The same product can be used on computers and equipment shared by staff in schools.
  - **Athletics:** We are still waiting for guidelines from WIAA which should be coming out soon. Questions and concerns mentioned were:
    - Sports activities are very limited in phase 2
    - There are fewer limits on sports activities in phase 3, but competing is not allowed until phase 4
    - Fitness classes are affected as well – locker rooms cannot be used in phase 2
    - All equipment must be sanitized after its use and before it's used by another person.
    - There must be a detailed protocol to follow and a way to ensure it's followed.
    - Alex has options for disinfectants, but they may cause some surfaces to deteriorate faster than normal (leather basketballs, rubber balls, etc.).
    - Another option for some items is to assign the piece of equipment to a student for the year/season to reduce the need to sanitizing.
    - Mark suggested another sub-group be created to study and create protocol for properly disinfecting all sports equipment. This group should include Alex, John Vansant, Stephanie Splater, Shawn Jordan a High School athletic

director, and possibly principals. The Athletics and Activities sub-committee should also be involved in this process.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Several issues were mentioned including:
  - Becky Ramsey – some Special Education classrooms have a need for protective gowns or scrubs because of a high risk of exposure as they work with some students. Alex has ordered disposable gowns and can order scrubs to be assigned to staff if necessary. Staff would be responsible to properly clean their scrubs.
  - Becky also emphasized the need for face shields for many staff members to properly teach our high population of deaf and hard of hearing students that need to read lips. If everyone always wears masks it hinders their learning, their socialization and limits integrating with others.
  - Other situations were mentioned where staff should use face shields such as: principals and assistant principals often work with students or families needing de-escalation and communication is clearer when others can see their facial expressions

**Student transportation:** Salliejo Evers is waiting for a final decision on school schedules so she can develop firm transportation plans.

- She commented that having the A/B schedule help bussing at the secondary level.
- Durham is waiting on their corporate office to determine their cleaning protocol.
- Students will wear masks on the bus and windows will be open to increase circulation.
- Bus drivers will assign seats to students with as much distance as possible. Matt Truitt suggested seating kindergarteners in the front of the bus.
- Salliejo has been told buses can be loaded as before.
- Salliejo asked if bus drivers can get lists of kids riding activity buses to know how many stops to be prepared for.
- She shared that Durham needs to hire 188 bus drivers, so she is advocating for them.

**Required Training and Accommodations for staff with high risk:**

- Mark has had conversation with the Spokane Education Association, and they have presented many questions that teachers have been asking. There are many concerns related to teachers that are at a high risk.
- Sabre Dahl reiterated they will use ADA guidelines/process when staff make requests.
- She is developing a communication plan to educate staff on how to begin the conversation and access accommodations for their high-risk status. She is hoping to have a communication plan in place soon.
- Sabre is also working on detailing the training required for staff, along with a system for how and when each category of staff will be trained.
- Students and families need to receive training also. They are working on finding ways to best communicate families.
- Matt has seen other school districts that have mailed information to families to help prepare their students all the health requirements for the coming year. Some examples he's seen are: have children wear a mask for a short times to get used to them, practice washing hands for 20 seconds and sing Happy Birthday while they wash. Mark asked him to get a few of those resources to him and he'll pass on the ideas to Community Relations.

Mark will create a template for each task group to provide recommendations and guidelines for schools to work from that include: proper cleaning and disinfecting, room set-up, transportation, health screening, serving breakfast and lunch, and accommodations for high risk staff.

Elementary protocols will need to be pretty consistent and secondary schools may have more options to implement them in the way that best fits their school, given the size and layouts of schools.

Mark closed the meeting at 1:59 p.m.