

Safe School Reopening Task Force Leadership Steering Committee  
July 9, 2-3 p.m.

**Attendees:** Adam Swinyard, Mark Anderson, Jerrall Haynes, Dr. Bob Lutz, Jeremy Ochse, Steve Fisk, Rebecca Powell, Kristy Mylroie, Megan Read, Tricia Kannberg, Katie Kenlein, Stephanie Busch, Michelle Jenner, Oscar Harris, Shawn Jordan, Dawn Sidell, Jeremy Shay, Craig Numata, Phil Wright, Gwen Harris, Cindy Coleman, Becky Doughty. Not in attendance: Jennifer Keck, Brad Read.

**Discussion:** Dr. Mark Anderson opened the meeting with a reminder about the reopening plan approval process – recommendations will be provided by subcommittees, a recommended plan is finalized by the steering committee and negotiated with Spokane Education Association, a Memorandum of Understanding is developed, the School Board approves the plan in August and school begins on September 3. Administrators expect to begin negotiations with SEA as soon as next Monday, July 13.

Based on guidance from the state superintendent and the Department of Health, the givens as of today are:

- Keeping a 6-foot distance
- Masks to be worn in school (or shields in certain situations)
- Frequent hand washing
- Daily health screening plan
- Transportation cleaning, distancing, mask-wearing

Superintendent Adam Swinyard highlighted the discourse happening throughout the city, state and nation with regard to opening schools for face-to-face learning. The guidelines continue to evolve.

Dr. Anderson reviewed the examples of classroom spacing models which will accommodate 21 students. Dr. Swinyard mentioned a survey sent out at the end of school to gauge people's interest in a full distance learning model. About 560 elementary families expressed interest, but we know that number will change when the reopening plan is finalized.

Three elementary education models will be discussed with the SEA, all of which have pluses and minuses:

**Option 1** has a maximum of 21 students per class (there could be fewer)  
Music, art and science rooms would be used as regular classrooms  
Music, art and science specialists would become classroom teachers  
Two 30-minute preps per week would be covered by fitness teachers  
There would be late start or early release of 40 minutes for the other prep times, so the daily schedule would be 9:10 a.m.-3 p.m., or 8:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

\*Note that start and end times may be adjusted at all levels to accommodate bus schedules

**Option 2** has 21 students in each K-6 class  
Music and PE teachers would provide prep for 30 minutes twice a week  
This creates combo classes at all schools – up to 165 combo classes total  
There would be late start or early release by 30 minutes, so the daily schedule would be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

\*Dr. Swinyard noted that this option would necessitate conversations about combo classes with parents and staff.

**Option 3** has 21 students in each K-6 class

Instead of using specialists to fill extra classes, this option relies on CARES dollars and other district resources to fund 13-15 extra teachers

Music, PE, art and science teachers would cover prep periods

This option still creates up to 165 combo classes

The school schedule would stay the same

About 260 secondary families expressed interest in a full distance learning model. Two secondary education models will be discussed with the SEA:

**Option 1** has an A/B alternating schedule with three periods per day, six classes total. Students attend each class once a week.

Example 1 has group A attend periods 1,2,3 on Monday and 4,5,6 on Tuesday. Group B attends periods 1,2,3 on Wednesday and 4,5,6 on Thursday. Friday is a distance learning day, when teachers are available for support.

Example 2 has group A attend periods 1,2,3 on Monday and 4,5,6 on Wednesday. Group B attends periods 1,2,3 on Tuesday and 4,5,6 on Thursday. Friday is a distance learning day, when teachers are available for support.

Another option is to have Wednesday as the off day to allow more time for cleaning.

The goal with split schedules will be to keep siblings together. We are looking at a pick-up bus to get students to activities after school on their off days.

**Option 2** has a similar A/B alternating schedule, but with six periods per day, so students attend each class two or three times per week.

Example: Group A attends periods 1-6 on Mondays and Wednesday, group B attends periods 1-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the groups alternate attending school on Fridays.

We will be defining a clear protocol to be used consistently throughout the district for when a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID.

We are looking at the best way for students to have lunch at school and still stay 6 feet from each other. At the elementary level, the best choice may be to have students eat in their classroom. Hot and cold bagged meals will be available. The elementary cafeteria will be a good space for small pull-out classroom groups. At the secondary level, adding a third lunch period may make cafeteria lunches doable.

Committee members asked questions and discussed several additional topics, including the challenge of mask wearing, creating a visual campaign geared toward students to support the wearing of masks and other safety protocols, the potential for increased teacher absences and the need for more anchor substitutes, and what to do about choir and band.

Next steps include discussions with SEA starting July 13, adopting a reopening plan resolution, submitting a plan to OSPI Aug. 12, and starting school Sept. 3.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on July 16, starting at 2 p.m. via Zoom.