

Safe School Reopening Task Force Leadership Steering Committee
July 16, 2-3 p.m.

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

Discussion: Dr. Mark Anderson welcomed everyone and asked Spokane County Health Officer Dr. Bob Lutz for any updates he wanted to share. Dr. Lutz said that we are in a holding pattern right now, and that he tries to discourage people from looking at daily numbers of COVID cases; instead look at trends. There has been more community spread because of the large gatherings that people typically do during the summer. He met recently with a Steering Committee member and LC student Katie Kenlein to develop strategies for messaging to her peer group about wearing masks and how to stay safe. He also expects further guidance from the CDC next week.

Superintendent Adam Swinyard noted that the COVID situation continues to evolve quickly, and that the focus of conversations seems to change weekly. Families and staff are eager to know what our reopening plan is. We know there needs to be a plan in place for when school buildings are open, and for when they are closed. We don't yet know when schools will be open for in-person instruction. The start of school depends on the health of the state, the governor's office and state superintendent (OSPI).

Dr. Anderson reviewed the task force's purpose and the plan approval process, noting that administrators started meeting with representatives from the Spokane Education Association this week. We have made headway on following guidelines set forth by OSPI in that we've modeled classrooms to accommodate 6-foot spacing between students, ordered face masks and face shields for staff, and are preparing for extra handwashing and sanitization needs. We are working on transportation guidelines and also turning our focus to a distance learning plan for those who want full-time virtual learning, as well as for those students on an alternating day schedule and for the possibility we may have to close school during the school year.

Dr. Anderson briefly reviewed the three options for the elementary education model discussed last week, noting that each has issues. Heather Bybee said the elementary education subcommittee looked at those options and asked, "Is there a way we can do better?" She reported on a new fourth option that would have students in grades K-4 at school every day with a lower class size, and grades 5 and 6 on an A/B rotating schedule that would match the secondary education model. Heather said this efficient option provides more flexibility, helps maintain the current school day, and allows specialists to keep teaching their specialties. Referring to the earlier options, Dr. Swinyard noted that 21 students in each class puts a strain on the system and makes it very challenging for when new students come to a school. The Option 4 model

presented allows more flexibility during the school year. The group also discussed the impact of childcare; we are beginning to explore how we can offer our Express childcare program on a limited basis.

The secondary educational model is still focusing on an A/B rotation, with students in class, face-to-face with teachers 2-3 days per week. When they are not in school, students would practice skills and participate in enrichment activities virtually.

We know that if our buildings close, we need to have a continuous learning plan in place. We are still in the process of modeling that, and plan to have families register for a full distance learning option in mid-August so that we can plan for staffing at schools.

Dr. Anderson summed up the current thinking about meals in school. Elementary students would likely eat in class. Nutrition Services staff could distribute grab & go bagged meals to students in their classrooms to minimize interactions and possibly having to stand in line. Each secondary school has such a different set up that study is ongoing. We are also figuring how best to provide meals to students on days they don't come to school.

With the regular presentation portion of the meeting concluded, Dr. Anderson asked if anyone had questions. He mentioned some community questions he's been hearing about a protocol for cleaning desks and for entering buildings safely.

Dawn Sidell wondered if we anticipate staff doing home tutoring for special ed kids who can't come to school for whatever reason. Dr. Swinyard said that we do, and are working on a protocol to keep staff safe. Some staff have been working with students this summer.

Megan Read wondered about the students on a split schedule, and what the non-school days will look like. Dr. Swinyard said it will vary by grade level and course, but there will be a focus on providing consistency for families. Teachers will make it very clear what is expected of students while learning at home, and will ensure they are well prepared for their virtual days.

She also wondered if distance learning will start on Sept. 3 if we are unable to open school buildings on that day. Dr. Swinyard said it is fluid. We are partnering with the Education Association so that we're ready for a good start for students, that we have time to deploy technology and set everyone up for success. We need to be flexible and fluid around our school start date so that we have a strong start. That means we could push the start of school back to make sure there's time for necessary training. We want staff and families to feel well prepared.

Megan also asked about band and choir classes. Dr. Swinyard said we still want to provide those experiences for students, but they will likely look different. Dr. Lutz mentioned hearing about fabric coverings for instruments.

A parent webinar tonight is the first of three being offered to families to share information from the task force subcommittees and also to hear people's questions. A panel of district experts will be on hand with answers.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.