

Safe School Reopening Task Force Leadership Steering Committee
June 18, 2-3 p.m.

Attendees: Shelley Redinger, Mark Anderson, Adam Swinyard, Jerrall Haynes, Gwen Harris, Jennifer Keck, Kristy Mylroie, Megan Read, Jeremy Ochse, Rebecca Powell, Tricia Kannberg, Katie Kenlein, Stephanie Busch, Cindy Coleman, Michelle Jenner, Steve Fisk, Oscar Harris, Shawn Jordan, Brad Read, Dawn Sidell, Jeremy Shay, Clay Gehring, Greg Trepus, Jodi Harmon. Not in attendance: Dr. Bob Lutz, Andre Ramsey

Discussion: Dr. Anderson reminded everyone of the purpose of the task force, and promised to keep the meetings to 60 minutes. There has been lots of activity in the subcommittees the past week. As they come up with recommendations or need guidance, subcommittee chairs will report to the Task Force. The final Task Force recommendation will go to the School Board, which will have to adopt a plan to submit to the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) at least two weeks before the start of school.

New information from the state this week includes a 6-foot spacing requirement for desks in classrooms. School districts have to submit floor plans of how that will look. Principals are currently working on that, evaluating staffing for fall, and determining how many classes will currently meet the requirements. Schools are using schematics of potential desk layouts provided by the School District's Facility Services Department.

Dr. Swinyard noted that elementary and secondary classes might look different, as we work on modeling various pathways such as limiting the number of students on campus and creating as many instructional spaces as possible.

Administrators have received hundreds of emails from parents saying they do not want students to have to wear masks when they return to school. The response has been to contact the Dept. of Health, as the District is required to follow the guidelines they establish.

Dr. Anderson reported on the work of the Safety & Operations Subcommittee. SPS will buy cloth face masks for all staff, and will add masks as a requirement for students to purchase as part of their regular school supply list. The district will also have disposable masks available for student use if they forget their mask. We may want to reach out to community organizations that typically help with back-to-school supplies for students and ask them to donate masks as well. Many teachers have expressed concerns about students needing to be able to see facial expressions and watch their teacher's mouth to be able to learn effectively, so the district asked Dr. Lutz if clear face shields would be acceptable for teacher use. He said to wait for final guidance from the Dept. of Health.

A screening plan will also be required in the fall – how schools will take temperatures of people as they enter the building every day. The District is looking at apps that would allow for self-verification as well as walk-through screening devices.

Dr. Swinyard reminded everyone that there is a three-step process we are following: 1. The Task Force meets and will propose a recommendation. 2. We partner with the Spokane Education Association to negotiate specifics of the recommendation. 3. We implement the recommendation.

Greg Trepus, Chair of the Technology Subcommittee, provided a report regarding the pros and cons of a laptop check-out model vs a universal 1:1 laptop model. With the 9,000 devices

checked out to families during the COVID closure, the District has learned a lot about what works and what doesn't.

Checkout model pros: devices on-site for sharing, potentially less damage, access at home, schools manage their own tech. Cons: reduced access, cleaning of shared devices, navigating different operating systems, wifi access not 100%, logistical challenge of tracking devices. Universal model pros: most flexibility, students have responsibility for their "own" device, everyone has access at home, accessibility tools, ready to go by September, no sharing of devices, every student has a voice with tech. Cons: Cost of repair/replacement, cost to purchase 3,000 more devices, wifi not 100%, more staff and more support needed.

Dr. Swinyard said that the 1:1 model is the direction we had been heading toward; this accelerates the timeline dramatically. The additional devices needed can be funded through bond capacity, CARES Act dollars and the general fund. A recommendation will be made to the board on Wednesday to move forward with the 1:1 model. It increases equity and helps all students be ready for 21st century learning.

The plan will be to move 2-3-year-old devices to the elementary and have the newer devices at secondary so that schools have only one model to deal with. There will be training for students and staff.

Gwen Harris provided a report from the Full Distance Learning Subcommittee. She mentioned the survey being launched today that attempts to get a sense of how many families may not be comfortable sending their students to school in the fall and would prefer a distance learning model of some sort. We plan to reach out to parents individually to talk about their concerns.

On Track Academy can accept high school students this fall for credit recovery and online learning. Importance of interacting with teachers daily. Next steps include defining the teacher's role.

Dr. Swinyard provided a quick report from the Elementary Education Model. A decision was made to continue using the math digital tool Dreambox, which will be useful regardless of the final reopening model chosen.

Jodi Harmon provided an update from the Intervention Services Subcommittee by running through the seven questions the group has been discussing. She mentioned working with the SEA to look at different types of conferences and combining things to work smarter. The group is creating one-page screeners for use in the fall based on WaKIDS questions for families that can help identify their needs. Trainings for staff will be targeted and aligned so that we have a uniform response to questions like what to do when a student won't wear a mask. One-pagers are being developed to assist with staff wellness – these contain numbers for community resources and supports. Initial staff trainings can take place during the summer institute and the before-school professional learning improvement days, to provide an opportunity for consistent messaging for teachers.

Kristy Mylroie shared an overview of the Safe School Reopening Task Force website, located on the district homepage and every school homepage (spokaneschools.org/safestart). It will be used as a repository of information about the questions being tackled by the various subcommittees. Meeting minutes will be added each Friday.

The next steering committee meeting is June 25. The meeting adjourned promptly at 3 p.m.