

Re-opening Task Force 7/20/2020

Need to have a gmail account in order to participate in Google Hangouts, therefore we will be using Zoom today.

NH guidance - nothing surprising; please take time to review

Parent survey - sent out Friday morning; 350 responses thus far; approx 80% of parents plan to send students back; some parents are waiting until closer to the start of school; we will need the majority of our staff in person

- Bill has been working with others to determine how to support students at home and staff those positions
- Elementary - easier; one person can do different grades/subjects
- MS/HS - can't pull one teacher from each department
- NEA has shared their guidance - fair; Bill will work with union around planning and compensating for anything above typical responsibilities
- Portsmouth just published their plan; remote learning is available through VLACS and our teachers if possible
- Flexibility - we know we need to be flexible about meeting student needs; come for some classes and do some remotely; this is not a change
- 30% of students will take the bus; 44% of students will be dropped off; PD is supportive about helping us with monitoring traffic
- Masks - 17% say yes, all the time; 52% say yes when social distancing isn't possible; 25% feel students should not be required wear masks
- People who are not planning to send kids to school are looking for remote learning opportunities
- Bill will share the results with us; survey will close later today; numbers are not changing much (percentages); kinder parents just got powerschool logins this morning

Our plan will come out the first week in August; once parents can review the plan, parents will need to make a commitment by semester/quarter.

These are Bill's thoughts, let him know if you want to discuss further.

Jordan - students need to go into remote learning during the wait time for testing; we will need to set up the expectations and communicate to parents; Jordan will send the ppt to Bill once released.

Dave M - remote learning can come in many forms; ex. Some form of synchronous learning

Teachers have the right to refuse to be videotaped. Students and their parents have to agree to be videotaped. Melanie - has not been an issue in summer school.

Tague - Agree to committing for a semester. Can there be a drop/add period? In support of executive functioning and social emotional learning.

Barbara - allergies; can I work from home if I get sent home? Will I need to use all of my sick days? Do we have the need to use the resource?

We need to be reasonable - are these symptoms out of the ordinary? Is there a fever or other accompanying symptom?

How will the test results be communicated to the school? We anticipate that the doctor will be coming up with a plan for a note or call.

Sarah - in terms of staff being out...what if their child is presenting with students? Concern about coverage. Historically it has been a sick day.

Potentially can wipe out a department.

We will need to remain flexible. We will still need to work on the plan for remote too.

We are not currently considering a split day/week.

Class sizes are currently manageable:

- 9-12 most classes small
- K-5 no classes larger than 20 right now
- 6-8 no classes larger than 18 right now
 - Band has no more than 30 expected; chorus
 - Planning for UA
- Lunches will be a challenge; can't do it the current way

Sean - wants a separate schedule to accommodate the larger groups; elementary school already has a rotational schedule

Mom from Timberlane - when we went from five day to four day model; if remote it would be nice if the schedule was consistent; ex. Cleaning day on Wednesday; would be nice to be consistent with Monday = A day; Tuesday = B day; etc.

Austin - we have a hard time remembering which day it is; would nice to be consistent

Do we need to consider a split schedule for option A?

Heather Clark - new numbers a dozen classes over 20 (but other sections have ten); potentially kids could take electives instead of so many study halls; people's biggest concern is when a day without classes - need to worry about little ones;

Is SST going to take all of our kids who want to go?

Sarah - I support our plan A, but clear criteria of when we move to the next phase
Barometer of the community will inform the decision; next week we look at some of these options

Masks - Bill has to make the recommendation to the board; how do we reasonably balance safety and instruction; no one answer will make everyone happy; We will not punish students for not wearing masks; we will be clear about our expectations and will know how to meet them; some kids are not able to wear masks - individual needs vary; legal aspect - to what degree do we have authority;

- students need to social distance as much as possible. Can they take it off while sitting at desk - yes if socially distanced; hallways - masks worn; recess - depends on activity; offices - what is your comfort level;
- Opportunities to take breaks from masks
- Students and teachers can learn new norms
- Tables in elementary classrooms - need to be flexible and have an etiquette that we agree upon
- Small group cohorting
- Can we have plexiglass dividers for tables? Heather Clark - Harkness model; Phillips Exeter has information they shared with her;
- Don continues getting PPE supplies; elementary parents may not be able to get the amount of supplies they normally donated

Nicole - rec cohort groups; elementary age kids - look at current information about how they spread and contract; important to look at places that have already opened

Brian - we need to be very clear with what we decide and communicate it with families; in Epping 99 out of 100 kids asked to do the right thing do it

Kids will need reminders about the expectations; we will need to give reminders; kids who cough on someone on purpose is different

\$40 desk thing for elementary kids; can we move some of the desks from middle/high school over

What is the shared document starting to look like? Look at Portsmouth plan - good resource.

Melanie - summer program - kids are wearing masks; reminders to fix it;

Need to schedule mask breaks

Summary:

- Alternate day/schedule? The committee does not wish to explore this as part of plan A
- Mask conversation (at this time): students will wear masks when not social distancing; making expectations known to community; masks worn in public areas; students and staff can always do more for themselves

Subcommittee Reports:

Social Emotional Impacts

- Need for enhanced social emotional supports for all students, but we don't have a social emotional curriculum
- Possibly use work study practices as a platform
- CASTLE framework
- Counselor availability and workload
- Utilizing other adults in building for additional support
- Screen students for a sense of connection - pair with staff members
- EHS - Flex block for opportunities for students and teachers to connect
- Longer morning meetings at EMS
- Closure with teacher from last year? Exposure? Ask teachers via survey
- Planning for the beginning of year; enough PD days? Can we pay teachers to come in in August to plan and set up
- Talking about making videos
- Talking about communication plan

Once the plan is out - we can have a Q/A session

Voting day - deep cleaning after; lockdown some hallways

Videos for showing how things will work - KISS; in a nutshell; tik tok

Layers of protection

Nicole - adding more pd days this year? Joy - we would have to negotiate it

Teaching and Learning

- Pretty good shape with the topics from the first report
- Union should survey staff - Bill and Joy will work together to create
- Preschoolers - we want to be sure that we are thinking about that
- What will it look like - classroom layout; teaching google classroom and meets with kids right off the bat;
- PD - time for setting up a classroom
- Want to be sure we have enough tech support at elementary
- Supporting new employees
- Mentoring - cohort groups for technology
- Need to be sure we don't lose our work study classrooms
- Use tech in school that you plan for using if it's going remote

- Executive function with tech - using calendar, etc.
- We need to know which sites were purchased?
- Parents would like an emergency learning checklist for remote - links, passwords, user names; video that shows parents how to login etc.
- Summary on Friday? Google turned it on at EMS
- How will teacher evaluation work?
- HVAC? Working appropriately

Austin - some teachers are better at tech than others; most students are good with tech; can we have some time for kids to learn the tech

We will connect with Krista re: the PD days

Operations

- Automation/controls will be coming in August to look at HVAC; air is changed in elementary 8x per day; also works on CO2 levels; there are bathroom vents in each elementary bathroom
- Pick up and drop of EMS and EHS written up
- EES has recommendations written up
- Ronnie is going to work with principals on lunch
- Next meeting - face coverings and extra curricular activities;
- Share drafts with group this week to vet as a group
- Talking with First Student - re: hand sanitizer

Heather Clark: Any numbers about bus usage from last year?

Health and Safety

- Wearing masks when you can't socially distance
- Hand washing
- Socially distance
- Signage for reminders
- Is it possible to have a portable sink outside classrooms?
- Hand sanitizer available
- Will add more information from Dr. Chan's presentation to health section
- Office staff plexiglass
- Schedule for teachers to check mailboxes
- Drop boxes for parents will be checked daily
- Parents should not need to come in
- Visitors - can be required to wear a mask
- Communication with parents about policy is important; could lead to school closure; keep sick kids out of school
- Stickers across door to show the room has been cleaned
- Contact tracing - who handles?

Melanie: main office - what happens if students come in, parents

Bill: what are the recommendations around isolation? Where will isolation rooms/areas be located?

Heather Clark: thermometers with low batteries;

Don will check on plexi tomorrow;

Was anyone looking at staggered arrival? Busses naturally arrive in a staggered time. Multiple entrances.

Impact on safety. Supervision at entry points. We talked about staggered days.

Kid entry - students get checked at home or stations here?

Sunny - can we use the planners and have homeroom teachers do it?

Austin - use QR codes

Do we require it daily? Or weekly? Monday

Don: town uses the school as an emergency site; fire department will be using the locker room because their boiler is broken

What about people who have traveled to hot spots?

What should we use as a home screener and how frequently should they complete it?

Who is responsible for monitoring the survey results?