

## Reopening Task Force Committee Notes

June 2, 2020: 10:00am – 11:00am

**Attendees:** Rick Harris, Paul LaMarca, Roy Anderson, Natha Anderson, Tom Stauss, Jason Trevino, Mari Hartmann, Lianka Soliz, Veronica Thompson, Jeff Brasel, Scott Lee, Mark Mathers, Pete Etchart, Leslie Allfree, Samantha Fredrickson, David Hartshorn, Matthew Ochs, Ruby Burnley, Denise Paxton, Katherine Loudon, Laura Hutchinson, Jim Verdi, Prim Walters, Lana Ball, Dina Ciaramella, Adam Searcy, Rick Martin, Christopher Pilat, Joseph Maez, Maureen Wander, Adam Shoda, Kellie Carney, Kindra Fox, Laura Inuma, Ann Silver, Serena Robb, Sara Montalvo, Trish Shaffer, Troy Parks, Jackie James, Tiffany Young, Ben Hayes, Debbie Biersdorff, Emily Ellison, Jeff Foss, Kiemmy Boc, Irene Payne, Tami Goulden-Bosco, and David White.

Notetaker: Jen Caldwell

Paul LaMarca and Rick Harris introduced Dr. David White, DDS to the committee. David has worked on the COVID Task Force with the Governor and Mayor and will be a great asset to our group.

### **Update on June 9<sup>th</sup> BOT Presentation:**

Paul LaMarca went over two slides from the presentation: Preliminary Data Analysis – Class Size and Preliminary Data Analysis – Bus Size. He discussed that there will be a lot of variability with both, especially when it comes to special education considerations. The two slides go hand-in-hand and for both there will be scheduling challenges and most likely staggered start and end times. The PowerPoint will be discussed in greater length at the meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Jim Verdi started the conversation regarding the **Model Pros/Cons** subcommittee by asking if they are considering instructional minutes in their discussions. Prim Walters stated that several options have been discussed. They are finding a need for a teacher during the Brick & Mortar piece as well as in-person learning. Denise Paxton stated that they are also looking into the option where in-person teaching is taking place simultaneously with a Zoom class. Pacing will definitely need to be brought back a level to ensure all students are receiving equitable education. Denise suggested that when students are not physically in the classroom that they be prepping for the work they will go over when they are in the classroom.

Joseph Maez, suggested as a parent, that WCSD consider the Room & Zoom option in live timing.

Prim Walters replied that this option may be feasible for middle and high school but not so much for elementary students. She stressed the importance of putting forth multiple choices or many WCSD families will be lost to alternative education options. We could also see a loss in funding and staff if we do not provide many options.

Adam Shoda, CTE teacher at Galena, asked how CTE classes, which are leveled, will be addressed. There are factors to consider such as lab times. Prim Walters stated that this possibly could be addressed with the 25% option – students go to school 1 day per week for in-person and hands-on learning while doing distance learning the other 3 days of the school week.

Rick Harris recommended that Adam (and others) speak to their colleagues and asked them to take the initiative on these types of scenarios and provide recommendations to the group.

Debbie Biersdorff stated that the Teaching & Learning Committee has been working with TMCC and UNR as to what they are planning to do for Fall.

Natha Anderson commended the group on addressing all of the pros and cons with each option. She also stated that she prefers option #3, and option #5 is her least desired option.

Prim Walters asked what NorthStar does with the K-2<sup>nd</sup> students, with acknowledgement that online work is a tremendous amount of work for parents.

Ann Silver stated that if we plan to survey our parents regarding reopening options that she recommends also surveying businesses to get an idea of where they stand on accommodations for their employees with scheduling, etc. She can do this on her end. She also made a suggestion to the group to look into the RSCVA, as they are set up with a sufficient amount of space to be able to provide large classrooms with social distancing, with large screen capabilities. Many of their events have been canceled due to COVID so they may be able to allow WCSD students to utilize their space. Prim agreed that the group needs to reach out to the community for space options.

Dr. David White shared with the committee how impressed he is with the level of dialog taking place – he also asked whether we know or not what the different charter schools are planning to do in the Fall. He made the suggestion of having university students help with the Zoom teaching. Prim stated that most of the charter schools have the 1:1 technology advantage and are prepared to do whatever it takes.

Dina Ciaramella briefed the group on all of the professional learning plans that they have been working on for this summer. Teachers will be provided learning opportunities in: blended learning tools using MS Teams, Pacing Guides for learning standards, and Digital Notebooks.

Rick Harris suggested that the Model Pros/Cons subcommittee connect with Dina's group. Paul LaMarca recommended that the Model group expand on the differences between elementary and secondary education options.

Denise Paxton stated the importance of matching models with the different social distancing options. Prim Walters asked if there were other online programs accessible other than Edgenuity and Denise Paxton clarified that Envision is used for elementary Math and Benchmark is the program used for English Language Arts. Debbie Biersdorff stated that the Edgenuity program has a lot of functionality – NorthStar is looking into their current contract to see if expansion is an option.

Debbie Biersdorff also stated (from a previously asked question) that they have submitted a plan to the Department of Education for direction/approval on the number of instructional minutes required.

Emily Ellison spoke on behalf of the **Contract Considerations** subcommittee. This group has been meeting every other day to discuss the current contract language and addressing any questions that could have an impact on employees moving forward. Their primary goal is to communicate any possible implications in a manner that will be understood easily by the Board of Trustees so they know what implications are in place and what changes to the contracts would mean for each employee group. She stated that they are not yet at the point to make any specific recommendations to the Board, they are still looking at all of the various options. Emily will circulate the document that they have created with the whole committee so that it can be discussed further at the meeting on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Stauss stressed the importance of identifying and providing many options for employees, just as we are doing with our students.

A discussion took place around the best way to identify employees that are considered to be “at risk” without breaching confidentiality and/or coming across any legality issues. Paul LaMarca stated that the work has already begun with Risk Management on this process. Natha Anderson stated that an anonymous survey in a general fashion would be beneficial.

Ann Silver stated that many employers are already surveying their employees – whether they can return to work or not, with or without restrictions, etc. She stated they can get around this by asking generic questions without any personal/confidential information. She has offered her assistance in developing a survey.

Emily Ellison asked Jeff Brasel from the Washoe County Health Department if he can provide and guidance and/or parameters for determining “at risk.” Jeff replied that he will ask the epidemiologist in his department for some direction and get some better delineation on it. Emily commented that having more quantifying data would be very helpful.

Jim Verdi spoke on behalf of the **Screening** subcommittee. This committee’s major focus right now is developing the reopening guidelines and putting together a self-screening tool for employees. They are seeking assistance from the IT department for the possibility of utilizing a

QR code and have also asked Legal to assist with the “can do/cannot dos.” He strongly encourages any feedback from the full committee.

David White made comment that it is the pre-screening (self-screening) process that is allowing companies to be/stay open during this time. It gives a feeling of safety and security and is a strongly encouraged practice.

Jim Verdi stated that he would like to move forward with the screening document, with some adjustments to be made. It will also be translated into Spanish. Tiffany Young commented that the Spanish version would most likely be longer and to keep formatting in mind for that.

Rick Harris asked the group as a whole to review the PowerPoint presentation, Screening document as well as the Contract Considerations document and be prepared to discuss all in further detail at the Friday (6/5) meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding any of the documents to email those questions to the committee lead.

Laura Hutchinson suggested that it may be an appropriate time for some of the different subcommittees to come together and share ideas since they all tie in together. Rick Harris confirmed that all groups have the autonomy to merge, invite new members, etc. as they see fit.

The next Recovery Meeting will be on **Friday, June 5, 2020 at 10:00am**. If you have items for the agenda, please send them to Rick Harris or Paul LaMarca. Thank you.