

Reopening Task Force Committee Notes

June 9, 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, Laura Iinuma, Kindra Fox, Serena Robb, Sara Montalvo, Trish Shaffer, Troy Parks, Tracy Moore, Tiffany Young, Ben Hayes, Debbie Biersdorff, Kiemmy Boc, Irene Payne, Tami Goulden-Bosco, Susan Kettler, Ray Hirschman, David White, Sharon Kennedy, and Virginia Doran

Notetaker: Jen Caldwell

Welcome and Agenda Review:

Paul LaMarca briefly went over the agenda items. There were no suggested changes to the agenda from the committee.

Susan Kettler asked about the thermal scanners and whether colder/warmer outside temperatures, activities, etc. that could cause a deviation in readings would be considered when scanning temperatures. Leslie Allfree responded that the thermal scanners have the ability to set a range and adjust as outside factors warrant. In addition, hand-held thermometers will be used as back-ups when needed.

June 9th BOT Meeting Presentation Highlights:

Paul LaMarca went over the PowerPoint presentation that would be presented to the Board of Trustees later on that evening (June 9). He stated that the presentation is representative of a collective effort from everyone with the purpose of providing assurance to the Board that we are doing everything we can to ensure a safe return to school in the Fall.

Paul stated that the decision was made to eliminate the data slides as there was fear they would lead to an over interpretation of the results.

As next steps, the Governor is requiring a 20-day notice of any reopenings. What does that mean for WCSD? If WCSD plans to begin the school year on the regularly scheduled day of August 10th, a 20-day notice would be required no later than July 21st. Therefore, a definitive plan would have to be in place by the July 7th Board meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Prim Walters updated the group on the **Models Pros/Cons subcommittee** – she stated that the group has not met since our last committee meeting. At their meeting on Wednesday they will be delving into models based on a 20-student class size, which will be a difficult process as they will not have the resources for additional teaching staff.

Debbie Biersdorff discussed the scheduled visits that would be taking place this week, where members from both the Reopening committee and the Teaching & Learning committee would be going out to school sites to analyze possible working spaces in each of the buildings (libraries, cafeterias, media rooms, theatres, etc.) She expressed that all school sites are very different and don't offer the same capacities with space and/or staffing.

Natha Anderson inquired about schools with portable units and concerns around ventilation and hand washing, etc. Debbie Biersdorff explained that both dry/wet portables are being evaluated for possible recommendations.

Jim Verdi stated that the **Screening subcommittee** will be meeting later today and also do not have a lot of new information to share. However, moving forward they will be concentrating on three main components: Filtration, Clinical Space, and recommendations for frequently touched objects (pens/pencils, manipulatives, etc.)

Paul LaMarca stated that they have had some critical conversations around the thermal scanning devices which could run into some civil rights issues and legal implications so those are being explored further.

Leslie Allfree asked if any further decisions have been made around the self-screening tool. Paul LaMarca stated that there seems to be a consensus to have a self-screening tool, as long as there is no tracking mechanism and reminders to staff are frequent. He will follow-up on this once he has more information to share.

WCSD parent, Joe Maez, asked if the committee has looked into Hepa filters as an option. Jim Verdi replied that conversations have just started around the ventilation issues and they will be looking into all options as next steps.

Tami Goulden-Bosco shared out information on behalf of the **Vulnerable Populations subcommittee**. She stated that the group has been meeting twice per week and that they have a lot of diversity in their very large group. They are hoping to work with Ben Hayes to possibly incorporate some of the BIG data into their discussions as well as use results from the reopening survey once it is made available.

A few group comments were made; Susan Kettler stated that she hopes information will be provided to parents and families sooner rather than later and that the same resources are sent to everyone. Laurel Kerr stated that she felt there has been a sense of panic among parents since the reopening survey went out, mostly due to there not being an option of a full opening

in the Fall. Paul LaMarca stated that it's not completely accurate that the consideration of a full opening is not an option, having the most kids in school is our most ideal option but we are still required to follow all CDC guidelines and directives and those are posing challenges.

Paul LaMarca shared with the group that there are many families that have stated they will not be sending their children back to school until a vaccine is available. Laurel Kerr also asked about those students whose parents work and how will that look if they are doing Distance Learning with no adult supervision at home. Tami Goulden-Bosco stated that they are still discussing these options as well. Paul reiterated that this is where vulnerable populations bleeds into the models pros/cons group. Paul reminded the group that Ann Silver from the Chamber, not able to attend this meeting, has been working on options to survey the business community to see what accommodations, if any, will be made to staff.

Veronica Thompson asked how many WCSD students fall into a "vulnerable population?" Tami Goulden-Bosco replied by stating that there are so many different variables to "vulnerable populations," to consider (health/cultural/behavioral/individual circumstances). Susan Kettler added, the exact numbers are unknown but they are working hard to determine approximate ratios/percentages.

Paul LaMarca provided a few numbers to the group: 14% of our students have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), 48% qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch, and 7-8% of our students are considered to be CIT (Children in Transition/homeless). Some of these students, but not all of them, could be considered "vulnerable."

Veronica Thompson stated that she feels it would be beneficial for the subcommittees to identify the number of students that plan to stay home, for any various reason. Prim Walters stated that Laura Hutchinson has been working on this, comparing vulnerable population data with the pros/cons models.

Roy Anderson updated the group on behalf of the PPE subcommittee. He stated that he has been working with the Warehouse on getting orders filled in preparation for school Secretaries to return to the school buildings next week. They are looking into face shields vs. face coverings/masks as well. Orders are starting to come in and they have started receiving samples of cloth face coverings to analyze as well.

Paul LaMarca informed the group that Emily Ellison was unable to join this meeting but informed the group that the most updated information on **Contract Considerations** was given at the last meeting on 6/5/20.

Tom Stauss asked when the reopening survey closes. Paul answered, the closing date for the reopening survey will be June 26th. They have been looking at preliminary data daily. Ben Hayes provided some incredible numbers: 3500 staff surveys had been reported and 4500 family surveys returned. That's about 1000 surveys returned every day thus far. Ben Hayes

expressed the importance of not sharing out preliminary data too early as it could be a deterrent for others to complete it if they hadn't already.

Lastly, Paul LaMarca introduced new committee member, Dr. Coppes to the group. Dr. Coppes is excited to be a part of this team and brings expertise in pediatric infectious diseases as well as extensive knowledge of how European countries and even the East Coast of the United States are working and can be used as predictors – as they are typically 4-6 weeks ahead of the West Coast.

The next Reopening Meeting will be on **Friday, June 12, 2020 at 10:00am**. If you have items for the agenda, please send them to Rick Harris or Paul LaMarca. Thank you.